



CLEANTHES AND SEMANTHE.

A

DRAMATIC HISTORY.

CHRISTIANITY AND PAGANISM

A

AMERICAN HISTORY

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CLEANTHES AND SEMANTHE.

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BY THE
AUTHOR OF LEONORA.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.



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bid adieu to the Public, concludes with
acknowledging the due sense she has of the
kind indulgence they have hitherto shewn
to

Their most obedient,

And much obliged

Humble servant,

The AUTHOR.

C A L E A N T H E S

A N D

S E M A N T H E.

C H A P. I.

My LORD,

AS the long friendship you have honoured me with, has obliged me from time to time to send you an account of my travels, I shall now present you with my adventures in this island, in hopes to remove those wrong impressions which education and false rumour have fixed in your mind. You know how apt we are to commiserate a monarch, whom we see fallen from the height of human grandeur to a state of wretched dependency; not considering by what arbitrary laws, and cruel prosecutions, he might have

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forced his subjects to exert the undoubted right all mankind has to defend their privileges; therefore we rashly fixed an indelible stain upon the whole nation: but now, my friend, banish those ideas, and let me convince you, humanity, virtue, honour, and justice, are no strangers to this nation.

In my last I told you, that after I had ranged through many countries, and suffered a variety of hardships which I might have avoided, I determined to return home: but my hopes were blasted by a most dreadful storm; we were driven by stress of weather out of our knowledge, our compass was lost; and though we descried land, we could not attain the wished-for haven. In short, death appeared armed with all his terrors; the great abyss seemed ready to swallow us.

In this wretched situation we were tossed about two or three days, till at last our ship struck upon the sands, and split. I then resigned myself to the boisterous ocean, without any hopes of gaining the shore before me; nor could I account for any thing that happened, till recovering out of my trance, I found myself in a handsome apartment, surrounded by many people. The chief of them was a young lady

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lady of great beauty, which was so heightened by the charms of compassion, that she appeared to me the most lovely of her sex. After I had taken some refreshment, I begged to know how I came thither; as also the name of this hospitable land. She replied, Sir, you are now at Castle-Pleasant in the island of Liberty. It was I that found you cast upon our shore, and though I had small hopes of your life, I determined to try all methods; they have succeeded to my wish: but I must now acquaint my brother you are out of danger.

Here she left me, but soon returned with a young gentleman of so noble an appearance, that the graceful ease of his person added dignity to the manly beauty of his face. He assured me, 'twas with great pleasure he saw me delivered out of the perils I had been exposed to; politely adding, there was something in my air and mien that prejudiced him so much in my favour, that if I had no reason to the contrary, he should be glad to know my name, and why, in the bloom of life, I had left my native land to trust myself on that uncertain element.

Sir, answered I, your humanity convinces me you are a citizen of the world;

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to be unfortunate is a recommendation to your compassion, without the ties of kindred: therefore I shall freely tell you I am descended from the dukes of Urbina; my name Lorenzo Gonsago, born in Rome, once the queen of cities, and proud metropolis of the world. But now, shorn of her beauties, she sits down in the dust, and mourns her faded splendor. Superstition governs her councils, and harsh decrees enslave her free-born sons. Tired of my situation, and perplexed with many doubts, a fatal curiosity possessed me to go in quest of some land, where the imprisoned soul was at liberty to exert her faculties. And now, my kind protector, forgive me, if, for the sake of truth, I confess, prejudice of education deterred me from visiting this island, where I was told heresy, and false religion, left the wretched inhabitants void of every virtuous sentiment; now I am convinced I have been deceived. O suffer me then to suppose some protecting angel directed my steps to learn from you the true state of this kingdom; and why so much blood has been shed to enable you to forsake the religion of your ancestors.

Here

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Here the amiable man, without prejudice or passion, shewed me the tyranny of the Romish clergy, who, to impose upon mankind, and aggrandize their popes, had, in different ages of the world, introduced so many errors into the church, that it was impossible, if we judged by the laws of reason, or the rules of the gospel, to believe their miraculous fopperies. This, sir, continued he, is the true cause why we shook off their yoke; for let men be ever so great, or learned, knowledge, divided from justice, is more like craft than wisdom. What can we think of those who execute the cruel laws of the inquisition? Is it not a false zeal, that leads them to torture men for not believing what their reason rejects as erroneous? Nor could we give our assent to any barbarous action, without the mind was prepared from its infancy to bear the bloody decrees of that infernal court. Here I ought to beg your pardon, as what I have said must sound harsh in your ears; but as I am in my soul a friend to all mankind, I cannot bear persecuting my fellow creatures, because they differ from me in opinion. Whoever is guilty of such an indignity to human nature, commits an unpardonable

offence against the supreme author of the world, who founded his laws in charity, meekness and justice. Had your priests followed these rules, no raging fires had been kindled in our streets to destroy the miserable inhabitants. Such dreadful spectacles exhibited to our view, with what horror do we recal the reign of a queen, whose false zeal and gloomy piety made her delight in spilling the blood of her subject. Fell rage had then usurped the seat of justice, till with opprobrious wrongs the divine Astrea was banished from our island. But death having freed us from this princeſs, the watchful genius of our iſle recalled the banished maid. With joy ſhe flew to burst the prison gates where bright Eliza languished. In crowds the people ran to gaze upon their charming princeſs. With duteous zeal the nobles all attended to place her on the throne of her great ancestors. 'Twas then justice resigned the ſword into her hand, to quell the proud oppreſſors of this earthly globe; the laws again re-assumed their antient ſeats, while banished profeſſion howled in deserts. These were the glories of thy reign, Eliza. O why did her miſguided ſucceſſors forſake the ſhining path ſhe trod, to fill long annals of recorded

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corded time with broken faith, dark schemes, and cruel massacres! since then how oft has murder, with gigantic strides, stalked through our streets to seize the trembling victims, till roused to vengeance, the afflicted nation besought a neighbouring prince to save a wretched people.

The hero came to their relief, redressed their wrongs, and snatched them from destruction. In return, the generous islanders salute him king; and then, to secure their laws and liberty, it was decreed, that if the king and queen, and after them the princess Matilda, should die without issue, the crown should devolve upon Henricus and his family.

On the death of Matilda, Theogenes assisted by the court of France, set all their emissaries at work, to place the son of the abdicated prince upon our throne. Accordingly he landed in the most northern part of this island; all the disaffected party resorted to his standard.

In this distress Henricus arrived time enough to save us from the bold invaders. The royal army was victorious: the rebels submitted to the mercy of Henricus. Thus ended a rebellion, which might have proved fatal to our religion and

B 4 laws,

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laws, had not Henricus, by his prudent management, restored peace to the nation. In this state we remained till death robbed us of a monarch, famed for justice and a strict adherence to the laws. Thus, sir, I have as briefly as possible let you into some of the motives why we separated from the Romish church, whose cruel edicts must have reduced us to an insupportable slavery.

Here we parted, but rest was a stranger to my soul; the fate of my companions shocked me; but my grief for Alvaro was inexpressible, as he was the person I could have depended upon. Deep in thought, I ruminated on all I had heard; every accusation against our clergy appeared so just, that I endeavoured to divest myself of the narrow notions I had imbibed from my infancy. It was then I was convinced nature is a light that will shine through all disguises. This gentleman's open countenance, his universal charity, his free manner in delivering his sentiments charmed me, as I ever hated a contracted brow, with a cold reserve, mixed with pride, and a sort of contempt for all who differ from them in opinion. I then considered suspicions were inseparable from human nature; therefore,

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fore, lest they should enter into the breasts of this family, I resolved to order my agent at Rome to dispatch my remittances with all speed, as the lovely maid, to whose care I owed my life, appeared worthy my whole attention. Her youth and beauty convinced me the god of love had fixed her image in my heart.

In these perplexing thoughts I wore away the night, till at last soft sleep stole me from myself; nor did I wake till a servant came to enquire after my health, bringing me all sorts of apparel, till I could furnish my wardrobe.

Amazed at the generous treatment I met with, I enquired the name of my kind protector; he reply'd, Cleanthes, born of an antient family; but, sir, added he, I assure you, he is more esteemed for his virtues than his large estate; nor is his sister less praise-worthy, for though she lost her mother in her infancy, her sister, Mrs. Allgood, has supplied the place of a tender parent.

Delighted with all I heard and saw of this family, I soon joined them; the first compliments over, they asked me several questions, many of which I could not answer, as no doubt I had lain some time in a state of insensibility; upon which

Mrs. Allgood preached a short sermon, to prove we were all under the direction of Providence, which she hoped I would never forget, as it was almost a miracle that Lucinda and she should that moment be ready to snatch me from the jaws of death.

I told her I should ever with the most grateful heart acknowledge I had been the peculiar care of heaven, as it appointed them to come like my guardian angels to restore me to a fond mother's arms; for, madam, continued I, should I ever be so happy as to see her in this island, she would soon convince you no undutiful, profligate son abuses your clemency with a feigned story of his misfortunes.

If you would oblige me, cry'd Cleanthes, say no more upon that subject; there is a sympathy in honest minds, that will not suffer them to wait till time and experience ratify their choice. As you, my lord, have a soul susceptible of tender sentiments, you will easily conceive how much I was astonished at such a declaration. This the lovely Lucinda perceiving, she said, what we are capable of doing ourselves, we are not apt to think strange in others; and I dare say, sir, had fate cast my brother upon your shore, you

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you would not have delivered him up to all the calamities he must have suffered in a strange land, without money or friends.

O madam, answered I, 'tis not so much the action as the manner you have in conferring favours that robs me of power to thank you as I ought; but be assured what I have heard can never be erased from my memory, till death shall dissolve this brittle frame.

To give a turn to the discourse, Cleanthes proposed a walk in the park, where, to hide my chagrin for the absence of Lucinda, I begged him to continue his history, which he did in the most obliging manner.

o quā mīlē bēvileb cysd ion blōw boy
bēvileb cysd flūm od cibimān cibilis
to yētōm **C H A P. II.** graft s of
ababit

THE death of Henricus, styled the Just, cast a gloom over the nation, which nothing could have dissipated but the succession of his son, Henricus the second, a prince whose martial deeds, and royal virtues, rendered him the idol of the people; but what added greatly to their joy was, his numerous family, which gave them reason to hope the crown would continue in this royal race through ages yet unborn. But as I am not relating their history, I shall only tell you when Theogenes, grandson to the late king, broke the peace subsisting between the two nations, impatient for revenge, our monarch's youngest son, Britanicus, obtained leave to learn the art of war under so experienced a commander as his majesty. In vain he recommended moderation and prudence to his son. How ineffectual is caution, when fame is the reward of bold and daring actions. In fine, they arrived in Germany, where a fierce battle was fought, in which the intrepid prince, by a too daring courage, was wounded. I

faw

AND SEMANTHE. 13

saw him fall, and it was with great difficulty, and some danger, I conveyed him to a place of safety ; though victory soon after crowned our army with success ; but our joy was not compleat, till we were convinced our young general was out of danger. Nor was fame idle ; with eager haste she spread her rapid wings, impatient till she reached the court of Theogenes, that seat of pride and luxury. There, in golden letters, with her ready pencil, she described the painful marches and long sleepless nights, with all the glorious dangers to which bright honour called her favourite sons. Theogenes, in regal state, without a blush, heard her unmoved ; in vain the warlike trumpet calls him forth to action ; he never mounts the barbed steed, nor leads his numerous bands to fighting fields. Yet, prodigal of blood, he sends his slavish subjects to destroy the peace of nations ; and, by the chance of war, to lie the carnage of a foreign field. Sunk in soft pleasure and effeminate ease, truth is for ever banished from his presence. No sound but that of victory salutes his ears ; nor dare his ministers affirm we broke through his ranks, and let destruction loose to mar great natures work's. The fruitful fields,

with

with crimson torrents stained, yield a most dreadful prospect. There unnumbered wretches lay in agonizing pain, with mangled limbs, calling on death to snatch them from their present misery. At such a sight I stopped my foaming steed, to mourn the horrid scene. Then o'er the heaps of dead and dying men I cast my eager eyes, and felt soft pity steal into my soul; when I beheld the pride of nature, and the strength of nations, lost to the world, and to their friends unknown; deformed with clotted gore, the hoary sire and the blooming youth lay undistinguished in the common field. These are the evils which curst ambition brings to plague mankind. Why will vain man embark on the sea of uncertainty, with as much courage as if it was not noted for thousands of shipwrecks? But fate will have it so. Therefore the spring no sooner returned, than necessity called Britannicus abroad, to try the fortune of uncertain war: with him went most of our youthful warriors. Theogenes, fearing their courage, tried all his arts to have them recalled; once more he raised the sons of Rome to overturn our church and state.

For

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For this great end, a youth, the tool of his ambitious views, and son of the late invader, landed in the north; he was joined by many desperate men, who raised an impious rebellion. Accordingly, with fire and sword, they deal destruction round them. But as our army is coming home, I hope these sons of rapine will receive the punishment due to their audacious crimes.

As I was amazed to hear Theogenes represented in such a light, I told him I thought his court had been the place where all their young men of fashion had finished their education, and improved their manners, by shaking off that rusticity, which I had heard was almost inseparable from their nation. Some indeed might be so formed, that they wanted no foreign arts; of this, I believed, I had an instance before me, or else, both by his appearance and his address, I should have thought he had added the politeness of that gay nation to the good sense and solid judgment of his own. If that was the case, I begged he would favour me with an account of his travels, which he did as follows:

CHAP.

C H A P. III.

WHEN I left the university, that seat of arts and sciences, I determined to go abroad. Accordingly I arrived at Paris in my plain frock and bob wig. As I was viewing Versailles, I was joined by lord Easy and Sprightly. As they were expressing their joy at seeing me, lord Modish, to whom I have the misfortune to be related, as he sets up for a man of taste, without the least grain of common sense, approached us in this ridiculous manner, I am lord Easy's most obedient! dear Sprightly your's! cousin, I am glad to see you, though let me perish if ever I saw so grotesque a figure! pr'ythee, Sprightly, assist him to shake of this gothic appearance; split me if a young fellow just broke loose from his studies has any more taste than a brute! Pardon this freedom, for I am horridly out of humour, that inhuman monster my taylor has quite murdered me one of the most elegant suits of cloaths in all Paris.

Lord

Lord Easy raillyed him with great politeness; but, for my part, I was so astonished, that with great warmth I told him, according to my ideas of human nature, when such trifles discomposed the mind of man, it must level him with the brutes he mentioned.

Sprightly thinking I had gone too far, told me I had not yet entered into the gay part of life, when I did, I would find dress and address quite necessary to the character of a fine gentleman. Upon this canvas lord Modish painted a thousand impertinences, till tired to death, I left them, to pass my time as I pleased, till Sprightly introduced every artificer necessary to furnish out the sign of a man.

My dress finished, I went to the comedy, where I fell into a fatal mistake, by declaring it was a most detestable entertainment, and that Terence or Menander would have despised an audience that could have been pleased with such a senseless jargon. And as to their ladies, they did not hit my fancy, nor could I change my mind, though I was introduced into what they called the best company; there was none of that modesty,

or

or rather decency, that renders the fair sex irresistible.

Thus disappointed in the amusements of Paris, without any regret, Sprightly and I left all those stately palaces, inhabited by many wise men, with an infinite number of fools, all contending to be slaves.

Our road to Marseilles was very delightful. The weather so extremely fine, that nature appeared all gay and charming. No adverse winds brought nipping frosts to blast the tender buds. Spring had arrayed the earth in her most gaudy livery. Even poverty smiled, when she beheld the blooming prospect. The wretched inhabitants of this earthly paradise forgot their penury and want. The vernal air inspired them with a chearfulness that astonished me, and threw me into very grave reflections, when I considered the irrational happiness of these poor people. After revolving these thoughts in my mind, I asked Sprightly, if he could account for the joy he saw diffused over a land, where the subjects were born in slavery, and fettered by severe laws, which denied them the privilege of thinking or judging for themselves,

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themselves, while we, though we enjoy all the liberty we could desire, were often dejected and gloomy; and to add to our misery, if we acquired the vivacity of that nation, on our return home we commenced coxcombs, and trifled away our time in vanity, forgetting it is only knowledge that enlarges the mind, and raises her above low and insignificant amusements.

I am of opinion, replied Sprightly, 'tis the falling in love with our own ideas, that makes fools and madmen of half mankind. But if you are not content with this solution, let me suppose, in the infancy of the world Ignorance married Clearfulness, by whom he had two daughters; the eldest from a grave and severe turn of mind, was called Superstition, and the younger, from a constant flow of spirits, obtained the name of Mirth. The last, having an enterprizing genius, drove her sister out of most countries, till at last she settled herself in this delightful land. Superstition, stung with envy at her happy situation, raised so destructive a war against her, that ruin must have ensued, had not the states of the kingdom made a law, that neither of them

them should disturb the other's votaries. Thus left to themselves, Superstition built many religious houses, or rather prisons, where she immured her party, obliging them to lead a life contrary to reason and common sense. By this means Mirth was delivered from all her enemies, and now reigns sole queen of all the unthinking faces you behold in and about Paris.

As I was raillyng him on his allegorical fiction, and declaring my aversion to the elder sister, the winds summoned us to embark. Prosperous gales brought us to Genoa, where I found my friend Belmore so enchanted by the charms of an Italian courtezan, that he seemed lost to every other consideration. There was something in him so wild and thoughtless, mixed with an indolence, that he really buried all his good sense in the arts and wiles of this false fair one.

In vain I endeavoured to convince him he was throwing away his fortune and reputation upon a woman that deceived him. He told me I was too sententious; what the devil! would I have him give up an angel that loved him, and made him happy, to lead a dull stupid life, to gain the esteem of a set of sower grave mortals

tals that he despised? Many were our arguments upon this subject, till at last he promised to observe her behaviour.

It was some days before I saw him again, when coming into my room, he cryed out, Well, Sir, your triumph is compleat. My fortune has enabled her to enrich the chevalier. Death and furies! they have escaped my vengeance, but I am determined to pursue that monster to the farthest part of the world, but I'll be revenged. O Lorenzo! how weak a reasoner is man, when any violent passion has taken possession of his soul; for through all his rage I saw he was still a slave to love. How often did he wish once more to see that perjured charmer, to convince her how sedately he could take an everlasting farewell of her bewitching form.

With much soothing and persuasion he consented to go with Sprightly and me to Naples. But news arriving that Theogenes had declared war against Henricus, we returned home, determined to fight for our king and country. Accordingly we fought near Britannicus, in the battle where I told you he was wounded; I returned with him to court, just after my father had paid great nature's debt, so that

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that being possessed of a fine estate, and tired of the unsatisfactory pleasures of a court, I retired to this place, where I vainly hoped for happiness, but fate decreed it otherwise.

Thus ended my travels. What improvement I have made I'll leave you to judge, since all I have learnt has not taught me to conquer myself. I expressed great concern for his last words, assuring him inclination and gratitude made me wish him every felicity under the sun.

C H A P.

C H A P. IV.

I Soon found Mrs. Allgood's great piety made our conversation turn upon religious subjects; and I must say, Cleantes and she were too mighty for me to contend with. I admired their moderation as much as I condemned the cruel, false zeal of our clergy; but then the beauty, the good sense and prudence of the lovely Lucinda, charmed me so, that every day encreased my passion; in the most perplexing thoughts I wore out the tedious nights, a melancholy seized me, which they could not account for; they exprefsed great concern for my indisposition; but, alas! that only served to double my distress, as I dared not impart to them the fatal secret that destroyed my peace of mind.

As I was one evening viewing an extensive prospect, where the fruitful hills and fertile meadows shewed the industry of the labouring swains, I observed the day no sooner declined, then in gladness of heart they fung their rural ditties to the listening maids that danced upon the green; pleased with their innocent amusements,

ments, I almost envied them the freedom they enjoyed. I had seriously reflected on all I had heard of the tyranny of the Romish clergy; I had long despised them for keeping the deluded multitude in ignorance and slavery. In fine, a thousand reasons occurred to make me in love with this land of freedom, where people were left at liberty to judge for themselves: but here, my lord, I must confess, Lucinda's charms biassed all my actions; she was the star that ruled my fate; and by sad experience, I found that tho' many different schemes offered themselves to my imagination, yet none of them had the power to fix my resolution. If I sold my estate in Rome, and settled in this island, I should certainly break the heart of a tender parent, who had always treated me more like a friend than a son. To obviate this difficulty, I flattered myself I could persuade her to quit her native land to share my fate. But here my vanity was mortified with the impossibility of supposing Lucinda was not already engaged; or if not, would a lady in the bloom of youth and beauty, surrounded with every blessing she could desire, give her hand to a stranger? O no! she

she would be the prize of some more fortunate youth.

In this distraction of mind I saw Cleantes coming towards me with a very dejected air. I rose to meet him, begging earnestly to know what misfortune had befallen him.

Lorenzo, answered he, the best laws are defective, when inclination governs great men. Our general, whose polite and easy address fitted him for a court, was unfortunately sent to command our troops; they have succeeded accordingly. The rebels are victorious, our general fled, and with him those very men who had faced death and danger under our glorious monarch. One of our chiefs, joined by some chosen friends, made a noble stand, till overpowered by numbers, and covered with wounds, he bravely fell, nor saw the disgrace of his unhappy country. The exulting rebels, proud of their conquest, seized many of our men, not like fair and generous enemies. Long exercised in plunder and rapine, wholly strangers to the laws either of peace or war, they tortured the unhappy warriors, when slaughter should have sheathed the murdering sword, and mercy bid the wretched captives live secure

cure from further danger; they now carry terror through the frightened villages, and drive the peasants from their quiet homes; these are the evils which we labour under. This fruitful land, replete with every blessing, is thus by her own sons betrayed. With joy Theogenes beholds the spreading mischief, and triumphs in our woes.

But come, sir, let us return to poor Lucinda, I know she mourns the sufferings of her country, and with me laments the uncertain fate of the gay and generous Sprightly. His last words stung me to the soul, envy and jealousy at once possessed me. I immediately fancied he was my rival; of this I was convinced when I beheld her lovely eyes brim full of tears, which on our approach she would have restrained, had not the unruly torrents broke their crystal shells to adorn her face with pity's gentlest charms on purpose to undo me. In vain I attempted to divert their melancholy. What I had heard and seen threw me into despair. All the difficulties I had to struggle with appeared in so formidable a light, that I thought them insurmountable; nor could I fix upon any plan for my future conduct. Sometimes I thought she could not be ignorant of my uncommon assiduity

duity to gain her attention; but then as her heart was engaged, that would only encrease the triumphs of my rival.

After revolving all these thoughts in my mind, I determined not to live in this state of uncertainty, but learn my fate from this bewitching fair one; and now, my lord, to let you see how insensibly hope slides into the heart of a man, I suffered some flattering ideas to present themselves to my imagination. I fancied I could perceive she sometimes met my eyes with a complacency mixed with a little confusion. The pleasure this thought gave me, calmed my ruffled mind in such a manner, that I suffered the drowsy god to snatch me from all the hopes and fears that haunt a lover's brain.

C H A P. V.

SOON after, though I had an opportunity of declaring my passion to Lucinda, I found it a more difficult task than I imagined, for I was seized with a diffidence and fear not to be expressed. Whether she saw the embarrassment I was under or not, I cannot say, but she broke the solemn silence; asking me, if to amuse me in her brother's absence, she should shew me the place where she first found me? Ah, madam! answered I, why did you save me from the raging sea, to perish by a slow and lingering death? You are very low-spirited, cry'd the charmer, or you would not suppose so slight an indisposition could end so fatally.

My disease, answered I, no healing medicines can cure; therefore, fair Lucinda, hear me with patience, and be assured nothing but the misery I endure could force me to confess you are the mistress of my fate. In vain I endeavour to banish that enchanting form, the thousand virtues that adorn your mind subdue my reason. With joy she now applauds my passion, and bids me strive to gain the

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the beauteous prize. But, O Lucinda! a thousand fears invade my doubting soul, when I consider Sprightly is my rival. Here then, let me conjure you by all that's dear and lovely in your eyes, dispel my doubts, or else confirm my fears, that I may fly for ever from your sight, and trouble you no more with my audacious love.

Sir, reply'd she, you have surpriz'd me in such a manner, that I know not how to extricate myself out of the difficulties you have plunged me in, by declaring your ill-fated passion: nor can I let you into the story of my life without betraying a secret my brother has intrusted me with; all I am at liberty to tell you is, that my attachment to Sprightly does not proceed from love; my heart is free; and yet I fear I shall be forced to marry a man I despise; his years are as much superior to mine as his understanding is inferior to any gentleman's I ever conversed with.

By heaven! cry'd I, so great an injustice shall never be committed. O, madam! do but allow me to adore you, and here I swear no power on earth shall tear you from me. I want not fortune; suffer me then to convey you to Rome,

where my mother will receive you as the preserver of her unhappy son; nor will I importune you to reward my passion, till I have convinced you I deserve so great a blessing.

That's truly generous, returned the lovely maid, and claims my most grateful acknowledgments; but honour forbids any further explanation, till you have persuaded my brother to trust you with the cruel cause of all our sufferings.

Before I had recovered the surprize her last words had thrown me into, I saw Cleanthes lead in a young creature of uncommon beauty; the bloom of her complexion added lustre to the brightness of her eyes; she was tall, and exactly proportioned, with an air and mien rather lofty than otherwise, as if conscious of her perfections, she demanded respect from all she conversed with. Nor was a lady with her less worthy admiration, who, though not so tall, had such a careless, engaging vivacity, that she seemed to have an equal claim to admiration; and to say the truth, they must have gained all my attention, had not Lucinda's charms triumphed over every other beauty. There was such a sensibility, modesty and delicacy mixt with a graceful

AND SEMANTHE. 31

ful ease in all her actions, that she was quite irresistible. Observing an unusual joy in all their faces, I withdrew, fearing I might check the freedom of their conversation. When alone, I stroled into the most gloomy walk in the park, where seating myself to ruminate on what I had heard, I could not imagine why Lucinda, who had no father, should be obliged to give her hand to a man she hated. Distracted with a thousand fears, I determined to force Cleanthes to disclose the fatal secret. I was assured, in my own mind, he felt more than a common esteem for one of his fair visitors. But how could that interfere with the marriage of his sister?

Here I was interrupted by a man who threw himself at my feet, crying out, Good heaven, is it possible! do I once more behold my ever dear and honoured Lorenzo? I no sooner recalled the voice of Alvaro, than raising him to my arms, I embraced him not as a dependent on my fortune, but as a long try'd friend.

After we had recovered our surprize at seeing each other, I informed him of all that had happened since we parted, except my love for Lucinda; for as he had been my preceptor, I viewed him

as a sort of Mentor, who had by his prudence moderated many passions, which youth and spirits drew me into. I then enquired how he was faved, and what became of the crew ?

I fear they perished, answered he, without they were faved by miracle, as we were ; for, sir, when you threw yourself into the sea, I followed you, vainly hoping I might be of service to you. But alas ! I soon lost sight of you, which struck me with such horror, that though I saw a boat coming to my relief, I could hardly struggle with the waves till it reached me. We no sooner landed than a grave gentleman, though I was a stranger, hearing my story, pitied my distress, and lamented your untimely fate ; and then, like the good Samaritan, he set me upon his own beast, and kindly conveyed me to his house, where I soon found he had the care of several young people's education, tho' he was a heretic, and, as I had been informed by our priests, taught a false religion. But let them say what they please, this Mr. Lovemore is certainly one of the best of men. I soon made myself useful to him in teaching the children. In short, sir, he has behaved to me like a friend,

and

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and with great earnestness pressed me to accept of his house as a safe retreat till my grief was abated, and I determined to return home; but that I resolved never to do till this blest moment; for I could not have borne your mother's tears for the loss of a beloved son, whom she had always trusted to my care. O! sir, see this angelic man, and then let us return home with all speed, that you may dry the eyes of a tender parent, and restore peace and joy to all your friends.

I am not so insensible of the duty I owe to the best of mothers, answered I, as to let her be ignorant of my safety; and as I have had letters from her, and the rest of my friends, there is no such hurry for our returning to Rome. And as to your Mr. Lovemore, I should gratefully acknowledge his humanity to you, for I revere virtue in every religion; and I think this island enjoys more generous notions of benevolence and charity, than any country through which I have travelled; but 'tis late, farewell Cleanthe, and I will see you to-morrow.

When I returned I told them my interview with Alvaro; and after they had expressed their joy for his safety, I grew a little inquisitive into the character of

Lovemore; which Cleanthes perceiving, said, if I have any sentiments worthy your approbation, I owe them to the uncommon care that good man took to form my mind to virtue; could I have followed his precepts, I should have been able to conquer every difficulty, as he shewed me a glorious example of great piety, strict morals, and universal charity for all mankind; to assist the distressed is his chief delight; and though in the course of his life he has met with the blackest ingratitude, he shews no resentment unbecoming a Christian philosopher. I have often wished to bring you acquainted with this man, but I feared, as he was a teacher of our religion, you might have been prejudiced against him.

That thought was unkind, answered I; how could you suppose your arguments were not of weight to convince me of many errors in the church of Rome? Therefore pray let me see this amiable man, he no doubt will confirm all you have said, and enable me to banish all doubts from my mind. With joy he consented, after he had made me promise to bring home Alvaro.

C H A P. VI.

AFTER a night spent in many schemes how to make Cleanthes trust me with a secret that so much concerned him and his sister, I feared to displease him, by shewing an impertinent curiosity; this deterred me, till by degrees I reasoned myself into a resolution, to try what I could do in our way to Lovemore; but I found the ladies were to be of our party. Lucinda saw I was disappointed, and said, why are you in so great a hurry, to hear what will afflict you, as I know your regard for my brother will make you share his sufferings? Before I could answer her, Mr. Allgood told us the coach was ready. I hid my chagrin as well as I could, and the discourse turned upon the fine seats, beautiful prospects, and the charming countries through which we travelled, till we arrived at Lovemore's, where we were received with so benign and cheerful a countenance, that he looked as if peace and content were his constant companions; he embraced them with a paternal fondness, then presenting Alvaro to them,

them, he took my hand, and told me he was no stranger to my character; therefore he confessed few things in his life had given him more pleasure than to find Cleanthes and he had been instrumental in the hands of providence, to preserve two such valuable lives.

After I had expressed my gratitude to him for all his favours to Alvaro, the day past in such a manner that I was quite charmed; all his arguments upon religious subjects were managed with a spirit of meekness and charity, which I had never seen in any of our priests. Upon my telling him so, he said he was sorry for it; but prejudice of education was not easily conquered. But, sir, added he, ambition is the source from whence they draw most of their tyrannic notions; to govern the laity is their chief study. Moderation they despise, fear and terror marches before them, and murder pursues their fatal counsels; not that I condemn them all, some no doubt are deceived by following a blind zeal, without considering how much they swerve from the rules of the gospel.

With these sort of discourses I observed Alvaro was so delighted, that he took leave of his deliverer with great regret.

Upon

Upon which the other said, my good friend let not a short absence give you any pain, the many hours we have passed in social conversation, will ever remain upon my mind; therefore, as often as you can find any leisure hours, I shall rejoice to see you.

When we parted, I drew him into talk of Lovemore. O sir, answered he, 'tis impossible to describe the goodness of that man's heart. Were all priests like him, religion and charity would appear in their own radiant splendor. But their persecuting spirit influences their actions to such a degree, that they are ready to destroy the lives of all who differ from them in opinion. In what a different light do I now behold all the barbarities committed in this island. They shewed an uncommon joy at Alvaro's having imbibed so many of Mr. Lovemore's precepts.

The next day, as I was sitting in a pensive posture, Cleanthes, with great cheerfulness, said, rejoice with me Lorenzo; my friend, Sprightly, escaped unhurt from the battle I told you was so unfortunate to our army. I do sincerely, answered I, 'tis impossible I should ever be indifferent to any thing that gives you pleasure;

pleasure ; but, Cleanthes, I plainly see something sits heavy on your mind, which you fear to trust me with. Not considering when griefs are imparted to a faithful friend, they lose half their force. Why should you suspect my integrity ? do I not owe my life to your humanity ; and is it not to your undeniable reasons I have shook off the errors of my ancestors ; determined to embrace your religion and conform to your laws ? In this situation, if I am to be a stranger to your heart, I must wander alone, being in a land where I cannot readily converse with the inhabitants. Come then confess, a man of your age cannot be insensible to the charms of one of the ladies I saw you with. I paused, and he gave me the following account.

C H A P.

C H A P VII.

AS in all the conversations we have had together, you never mentioned love, I feared you would think it a weakness in me to confess, all my boasted philosophy has not enabled me to resist the charms of Semanthe. However, that you may no longer doubt my friendship, know, when I returned to court with Britannicus, I soon grew tired of the insipid manner of spending my time, I retired to this place, here to enjoy my studies unmolested, which I did with great tranquility, till one day with a book in my hand, I sought the most unfrequented part of the wood, where I had not sat long, when I heard a female voice ask her companion if that was not Cleanthes. Upon this, looking round me, I saw, as I thought, the very masterpiece of nature. I accosted them in the most submissive manner, asking if I was so happy to be known to them? Sir, replied the tallest, I knew you at the university, but I was so young, I fancy you do not remember me. The winning grace that appeared in all her actions, charmed me,

me, and made me eloquent. I asked a thousand questions to prolong the conversation, which she answered without reserve; informing me her name was Semanthe, daughter of sir Charles Wealthy, who was lately settled at Wealthy-Place.

As I led her to her cocah, I begged leave to bring my sister to wait on her and Isabella; they consented, and I returned to Lucinda, whom I ever esteemed a friend, as well as sister. After I had related my adventure to her, she told me by the warmth of my expressions, she feared I was a partial judge: that for her part she fancied Isabella was more agreeable, as I allowed her more life and spirit than her fair cousin.

I was so impatient for another interview, that I persuaded Lucinda to go with me the next day. Sir Charles not being at home, Semanthe received us with good sense and politeness, free from affectation. To hide the confusion I was in, I addressed myself to the gay Isabella, who I found placed all her happiness in making conquests. The giddy fair never considered the merit of the man she strove to engage, admiration was all her aim. To this end she employed all her arts and wiles

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wiles to gain a heart quite insensible to such attracting grace that adorned her person. Every word and action of the lovely Semanthe fixed my attention ; Isabela perceiving it, said, bless me, Semanthe, I think we grow stupid, let us change the scene, and take a walk in the garden ; we did so, and there met Sir Charles, who I found a man of a narrow way of thinking, very proud and vain, which made him over-bearing and insupportable. When he had entertained us with an infinite deal of nonsense, and contradicted himself and all the company, we took leave, but not till Lucinda had laid a foundation for an intimacy on which my happiness depended.

Every time I saw Semanthe encreased my passion ; she was never from my thoughts, all my former companions were now committed close prisoners in my study, their great admirer now gave up his whole soul to this new but charming guest. I had many opportunities of declaring my sentiments to Semanthe, who never forbid my addresses, though she gave me but small encouragement. Till one day as I was complaining of her insupportable coldness to all I suffered,

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suffered, she said with a tenderness in her eyes I had never observed before, if I was so wholly insensible as you represent me, I should not permit you to entertain me with a passion I am not sure my father will approve: he seems very fond of a title, which I assure you I despise, when merit is placed in the balance against it. Transported at her words, I seized one of her fair hands, which I pressed to my lips with an ardour never felt before. When, O cursed chance! sir Charles entered, and with an angry brow forced her from me, assuring me, there was but one way to gain his daughter. In vain I urged him to name the terms. He left me distracted at what had happened. I now experienced how much more natural it was for fear to counsel than to determine.

In this distress Lucinda came towards me with her eyes full of tears, crying I am the innocent cause of all your misery, my unlucky form has pleased sir Charles, assist me to practise a virtue I am yet a stranger to, the friendship I have for you, makes it my duty to sacrifice myself to this man, as nothing else can make you happy. Come then, strengthen my resolution, and convince me I may live with this

this hated wretch, without passing my days in a sort of despair worse than death.

Struck to the heart at what she suffered, I folded the tender maid in my arms, and said; no my Lucinda, my tongue was never employed to deceive a friend that trusted me, nor do I expect you to waste your youth in the withered arms of that old dotard, Semanthe, if she loves me, will contrive some way to deliver us out of our present difficulties, if not, I'll wait my doom, without destroying your piece of mind. I will this moment go to sir Charles, and try to convince him of his error. How can he suppose a young creature of your birth and fortune will bestow herself on a wretch, who has no merit, but that of being father to Semanthe?

Unable to bear the uncertainty I was in, I went to sir Charles, and used every argument proper to dissuade him from so irrational a scheme, but all to no purpose, his answers terminated with saying, your rhetorick has no effect upon me; I tell you I am not so old as you imagine: I want an heir to my estate; I like your sister, and will settle a large jointure upon her, therefore if she will marry me, let her

her say so, if not, you shall not have my daughter. Lord Modish, besides his title, has a better fortune than you ; now you know my mind, so pray trouble me no more with your philosophic reasons.

He then left me so enraged to find that foolish lord my rival, that I gave way to the natural warmth of my temper, determined, let the consequence be what it would, he should not rob me of Semanthe. I longed earnestly to know her sentiments of him, but in vain, the old jealous Argus watched her so closely, that though I was continually hovering round the house, I could not obtain a sight of her. At last a paper was dropped out of a window, with these words ; "My doom is fixed, fly this place, Cleanthes, and leave me to my wretched fate." Surprised at what I heard, I stayed till night had cast her shadow o'er the earth. I then returned home to lament my hard fortune.

Mrs. Allgood, the most dispassionate woman living, was amazed to find me so discomposed : but my sister, with a generosity of soul I never can forget, proffered to give up her happiness to that unreasonable man, rather than see me so wretched.

As

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As we were consulting what method we should pursue, a servant told me Lord Modish and Sprightly were arrived: it immediately struck into my head that he made my house in his way to Semanthe. Rage at that instant banished prudence from my breast, and I determined either to make him resign his pretensions to that lady, or lose my life by his sword. I had no more time for reflection, the coxcomb entered, I received him very coldly, and then embraced Sprightly with the strongest marks of affection. All this time Lord Modish was complimenting my sister in the highest strains of flattery, swearing he never saw a lady dressed in so high a taste since he left Paris. Then turning to me he said, Rat me, Cleanthes, if you are not metamorphosed into quite another creature. Paris is no doubt the only place to make pretty fellows. O madam, never marry a man that has not travelled, there is something so gay and polite in their behaviour, that I am amazed a fine woman should ever think of bestowing her charms on a creature that never saw the world. Sir, answered Lucinda, as I have had none of those advantages in my education, I fear one of these accomplished gentlemen

gentlemen would despise me. I told her there were many ladies of her opinion, as for example, Semanthe. That is impossible, cryed the peer, for you must know sir Charles has made some overtures for an alliance between his daughter and me. To-morrow I am to have an interview with her, and then, if I don't convince her she is in an error, call me the most stupid wretch that ever existed. My Lord, answered I, laying my hand on my sword, before you make your addresses to that lady, you must dispatch me. Split me if I endeavour it, replied he, I am not tired of my life, therefore Sprightly let go my arm: upon my honour ladies you may dismiss your fears, I have nothing savage in my nature; I will not kill Cleanthes for the sake of a woman I never saw but once. Besides, as he assures me she has no taste, confound me if I had not rather live without her, than fight for her. Sprightly was rejoiced to find this affair would proceed no farther, and said, Cleanthes, you must allow there is good sense in this resolution of my Lord. He has fairly conquered you and all your tribe of philosophers. I see you cannot justify your behaviour, therefore let us try how

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we may serve you. I told him there were so many difficulties to bar my happiness, that I was all despair. Well, says my Lord, that is incomprehensible to me; thank heaven, I have a way of thinking that keeps me in good humour with myself. Perhaps you will call this vanity, which will give me no sort of concern; ease and pleasure are my pursuits, which to obtain, I constantly banish despair. Dear Cleanthes, take my advice, and do not pursue this cruel fair, if she treats you with scorn; for I think a handsome young fellow of a good family, and a large fortune, must ever have a right to set a just value on himself. But pray let us into this dreadful affair that robs you of your peace of mind. After I had made some excuses for my behaviour, many schemes were formed that proved abortive; till at last 'twas agreed they should make their visit to sir Charles, on purpose to bring Sprightly and him acquainted. Accordingly they went, when differing about settlements, my Lord returned to court, leaving me to the lessons of Mrs. Allgood, who told me from a sedate and sensible man, I was become the slave of Cupid. Very true, madam, cry'd Sprightly; but do not let us

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us magnify his foibles into crimes, but endeavour to extricate him out of his present difficulties. I found some relief from his last words, as I knew he could conform himself to the humour of sir Charles, without giving himself much pain.

He succeeded as I expected, he was allowed to converse with the ladies. Semanthe at first behaved with caution, fearing he was in the interest of Lord Modish. Isabella, on the contrary, saw him young, handsome, and gay, she admired his wit and easy address; her vanity would not suffer her to lose such a conquest. To prevent a disgrace of this nature, she played all love's artillery against him; he saw through her design, and for some time kept strict watch over his heart, telling me I had assigned him a very dangerous post. As to Semanthe, her good sense and prudence must in time make me happy; but added he, my trifling charmer, did she know her power, she would use me like a slave, but that I will prevent if possible; thus he went on for some time. I found he was never easy but at Sir Charles's; however, I took no notice, till one day I heard him ask Lu-

cinda

cinda by what bubbling spring he should find her woeful brother.

Take care, cried I, that you never are in the same situation. Isabella has charms, and you have a heart susceptible of soft impressions! They have not yet entirely destroyed my peace of mind, replied he; but to confess the truth, I begin to fear this arch gypsie, for she tosses my heart about like a shuttlecock. She has this day lavished away more wit upon me, than might have gained her many new lovers. The next time I see her, perhaps she will be profoundly grave, and complain of the stupid world; protesting she is tired of every body's company, and wishes for nothing so much, as to live alone in some delightful cottage; where she might enjoy her own thoughts, unmolested by the ill-temper of some, the melancholy of others, and the horrid disappointments of a life past in the world.

But now to our business: by the force of Semanthe's prayers and tears, I have drawn sir Charles into the most solemn engagements, never to force his daughter to marry, till Lucinda gives her hand to another. But, not to trouble you with a thousand circumstances, I shall only

add; soon after, Sprightly being obliged to return to court, he discovered his passion to Isabella, who, as she was to part with him so soon, behaved like a reasonable woman, which compleated her conquest. The joy she shewed at receiving a letter from him, after the last battle, convinces me she has more than a common regard for him, though she will not own it.

Sir Charles being absent for some days, they were at liberty to make us a visit, in which my Semanthe made me happy, by promising never to give her hand to another. Poor Lucinda has refused the addresses of many young gentlemen, equal to her in birth and fortune, which gives me great pain; as her prosperity is as dear to me as my own. This is the posture of our affairs, where you see there are many perplexing difficulties to be got over.

After I had thanked him for this mark of his confidence, I told him he had made me the most miserable wretch upon earth; that as he was both a lover and a friend, I hoped he would pity my distress, when I declared his sister's charms were not to be resisted, and that her virtues appeared in so amiable a light,
that

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that if I could not obtain her, I must be wretched. But Cleanthes, added I, do not imagine me so lost to the laws of friendship and gratitude, that I should build my happiness upon your ruin. Do but allow me to adore Lucinda, and here I solemnly protest, till Hymen's bands has united you to your Semanthe, I will not ask you to give your sister to my arms.

Generous Lorenzo! answered he, fortune has led us into so perplexed a road, that, lost in the intricate mazes of fate, we wander on, uncertain of our doom. In vain the mind collects her utmost force to banish passion from the human breast. Therefore, from this time, partake a brother's love; and may my sister be the cement to unite us in the sacred band of friendship! But say, Lorenzo, have you declared your sentiments to Lucinda, or shall I disclose the secret to her?

I then informed him of all that had passed. He told me, when once a young lady could be brought to hear the complaints of a lover, she seldom failed to reward his sufferings. But 'tis now time to release you from a tedious story, where self-interest made me too narrative.

Lucinda joining us, he said, contrary to my own maxims, I have been persecuting Lorenzo with the history of our misfortunes, when, to my great surprise, I found him so deeply interested in your happiness, that, for the future, I shall view him as the person destined to reward your virtues. Nothing could have damped the joy this declaration gave me, had not the confusion of Lucinda filled me with a thousand fears. Amazed I saw conflicting passions labour in her breast! No more the vernal blush adorned her lovely face. In gentle drops, like morning dews, the silent tears descended, as if impatient to revive the faded roses banished from her cheeks. While her brother ran to call her attendants with eager haste, I caught the trembling fair, sustaining on my breast her drooping head, crying, alass! Lucinda, am I the object of these sorrows? can you despise the heart that owns your power? O speak, and let me die the victim of your scorn!

Cease your complaints, replied the weeping maid, my brother's happiness depends on my resolves; but no more; he comes, and must not know the storm that

that threatens to destroy his hopes. Early to-morrow meet me in the neighbouring grove.^{III} There you shall know the utmost malice of my fate. We then returned to the castle, moralizing on the uncertainty of all human felicities.

D 3 C H A P.

C H A P. VIII.

WRACKED with numberless conjectures I wore out the night in uncertainty, that worst of evils to the mind of man. At last, the gay appearance of the morn summoned me to seek the grove: there in cruel expectation I chid the lingering moments. In vain the sun displayed his radiant beams to adorn the rural scene. Deaf to the warbling songsters of the woods, pensive and sad, I sought the thickest gloom, to indulge my imagination with unnumbered ills buried in fate's eternal volume, still casting around my eyes to explore each avenue. At last she came like some bright shepherdess, adorned with truth and innocence: I flew to meet her, crying, Cruel Lucinda, why this delay? time did indeed stand still till you appeared to calm my troubled mind.

Alas! Lorenzo, replied the gentle fair, what can a wretch denied the power to act, impart to sooth your sorrow! what though I confess something more soft than even compassion seized me, when first I saw you, almost breathless,

on

AND SEMANTHE. 55

on our shore! But least you should suppose some selfish passion governs my actions, I here declare I will not make Cleanthes wretched! You know, sir Charles is the cause of all our sufferings! he assures me, if I do not determine to marry him in a month, he will give his daughter to one more suited to his wishes than my brother.

And will she consent! cried I, O madam! you have thrown me from the top of human happiness into an abyss of misery! Why must love and friendship both unite to torture me? I cannot bear to see Cleanthes cast from his youthful hopes, to languish out his days in pinning discontent: but then, no words can express what I feel when I behold thee, thus wining soft, thus amiably mild, without disguise, confessing thy partial preference to Lorenzo; then, then to have thee forced from my desiring eyes! it cannot be. But O! I rave! his age secures him from my just resentment! How then can I defend thee; and, at the same time, keep my faith inviolable to Cleanthes? Can bolts or bars deprive him of Semanthe? why does she not leave her father to share your brother's fortune? If thoughts of splendid trifles

can retard her steps, she is not worthy his care.

You judge too rashly, cried Lucinda, the hapless fair one no ambition knows. My brother, stript of all his ample fortune, would still be dear to his Semanthe! But know, a solemn oath has past her lips, never to marry without her father's consent. This is the source of all our misery! but let us not dispair: the bold rebellion that now threatens our isle, alarms his growling soul with something worse than death! The loss of his estate! Were that secure, the wretch would soon give up the cause of liberty. His easy faith no persecution fears; ductile his mind to each erroneous doctrine; credulous and false his servile soul could bear to bow to Bael, or the Pope's decrees,—no matter which. From hence my hopes arrise; the god of love can no such votary own; he flies the coward's breast; nor dwells but in a brave and generous mind. Distracted with ten thousand false alarms, he has sent the neighbouring youth to beg my brother will lead them on against the barbarous foe. Just now I left him surrounded by a crowd of friends, debating on the means to serve their king and country.

And

And see, the noble youth approaches !
from him we shall learn the danger that
now threatens this unhappy land.

I hope 'tis not so great as you imagine, says Cleanthes ; the guardian-angel of our isle smoothed the rugged bosom of stern Neptune, and sent the gentle gales to land Britannicus on his native shore. Sprightly informs me, our monarch received him with all the marks of paternal fondness, crying, for the present, here let thy labours end ; and leave this impious civil war to the faithful legions that support my throne. Thy life would glut their impious thirst of blood. But mark my just commands, when honour calls thee to the field of battle, intrepid stand, and wait the coming danger. In honour's bed, the victor's mead, is glorious death, or never-fading laurels : but when rebellion deals destruction round her, no cartel can be settled ; the royal youth would no distinction find but what preheminence of misery can grant : let this deter you from an impious war, more dire than fierce Pharsalia's hostile field. Cæsar was generous, brave and wise ; ambition was his only crime ! raised to the height of all his wishes, no cruelty e'er stained

his conquering sword; where'er his brave
victorious eagles flew, he ruled the lands
with mild and generous sway.

Forgive me, sir, if I intreat you to
recal your last commands, replied Britan-
nicus. Must I stand tamely here, and
see these rebels despise your power, and
abuse your clemency? O! sir, recal
the time, when foremost in the battle
you sought the foe, nor shunned a glo-
rious death. Some of that ardor now
inspires my soul: like my great father I
would gain renown, and crush this ser-
pent, before it gathers strength from the
false maxims of Theogenus. The weighty
cares of royalty demands the presence
of your majesty; nor would the nation
venture your life against a rude bandit-
ti: but for me, removed from royalty
and born a subject, my life must pass
away in vile obscurity, should you not
suffer me to serve my country and de-
fend your rights. To you no suppliant
ever sued in vain; therefore, thus pro-
strate at your feet, I beg you to believe
a son of yours will never brook captiv-
ity. A thousand doors, when once the
battle rages, are open to all-conquering
death, should victory forsake the juster
cause. To the grim tyrant will I fly for
succour;

succour ; nor stain the annals of my ancestors, by meanly begging my life of haughty Theogenus, or the court of France.

The monarch finding his son so very importunate, gave an unwilling consent, to the great joy both of the army, and indeed the greatest part of the nation. The most distant countries send forth their hardy sons to join our general who is set out for the north, which convinces me, Sprightly will not be able to snatch one moment from unrelenting fate to bid his charming Isabella adieu ; therefore, ladies, you must convince both her and Semanthe, that every tender passion must obey the rigid laws of honour. The public good now forces me to leave the only object of my constant heart, without one last farewell ; nor could she esteem me worthy of her love, should I supinely live in ease and pleasure, now when triumphant treason rears her horrid standard, guarded by enthusiastic rage, false zeal, and cruel superstition. Our in-born foes too long have flourished under the mild indulgence of our laws ; but now, like pampered steeds, they break their bounds, and rashly run upon their own destruction. Where'er their troops advance,

advance, no more our fruitful fields reward the tiller's care; driven from their peaceful homes, each wretched father leaves his faithful wife and tender infants, begging their lives from their inhuman foes.

This is a picture of our present misery. Like wretched mariners tossed on a boisterous sea, in vain we wish for some small cott, where we might live secure from every peril of the faithless ocean. That once obtained, the happy wanderer might have lain him down in freedom's arms, till gentle sleep, in pleasing dreams soothed all his cares, by shewing him bright liberty was now his great protectress. O dreadful change! the glorious goddess disappears, and in her room unnumbered dæmons wing the dusky air urging fell Ate to lead on their lawless bands. In this distress, my king and country demand my life; therefore, to you, madam, and Lorenzo, I leave Lucinda and my dear Semanthe: remember, on your conduct depends my happiness, should I return victorious; but if the fatal sisters have decreed to cut my short and brittle thread of life, then take Lucinda to your arms, and with Semanthe divide my fortune.

Cleanthes,

Cleanthes, cried I, why do you commend your laws, when they have been so deficient as to allow so fatal a liberty to the enemies of your religion and government? Would it not have been true policy, had you restrained the avowed destroyers of the public faith? Should they prevail, what seas of blood would they require to wash away the stains which heresy has brought on this unhappy land. But sure a small party of men removed from power, nor trusted with affairs of state, can never be so blind as to pretend to subvert the laws of a brave and generous people! Believe me, Cleanthes, soon as your army advances, they must submit, and beg for mercy from his majesty. Suffer not false rumours to force you from Semanthe's charms: how can we protect her from a father's harsh commands? on our refusing to resign Lucinda, he may force his weeping child to give her hand to some more happy rival. By those soft tears that fill the lady's eyes, by friendship's sacred ties, and all the love you bear Semanthe, I conjure you to despise the foe, nor let us mourn your absence.

He

He replied, to guard Semanthe and my other friends from lawless power, is all I ask of heaven. But you, Lorenzo, judge of men, as swayed by reason's laws; unknowing that the sons of this degenerated land, false to their country, now join the factious party. Sunk in pleasure, and debased by luxury, their ruined fortunes drive them to violate those laws, for whose defence their ancestors so bravely fought. Could but the marble monuments that now inshrine their honoured bones, give up the mighty dead; how would they grieve to see their base inglorious sons give up the cause of liberty! And would you have me live ignobly here, to wait the coming danger, when our general flies all courtly pomp to free us from this bold rebellion? Come, then, thou mighty genius of our isle; arise, and with thee bring bright fame, as thy attendant. Let her shrill trumpet once again rehearse the noble stand we have made to secure us from arbitrary power. Why then this fond delay? my valiant friends expect their tardy chief, impatient till they join Britannicus. Adieu, my friends! sooth poor Lucinda's sorrows; but, above all, remember Semanthe is the mistress of

my

my soul! keep up my interest in the lovely mourner! tell her I go to rescue her from every chain but that which gentle Hymen has prepared to unite Cleanthes to his dear Semanthe. In vain I endeavoured to convince him of the indispensable duty I lay under to share his danger, in defending a country where I hoped to pass my life in tranquility. He would by no means consent; but left us so over powered with grief, that we passed our time in great perturbation of mind.

C H A P.

C H A P. IX.

IN this situation, we found the wing of time was laden with care: every moment had woes of its own: rumour encreased our fears to so great a degree, that even letters from Cleanthes gave us but small relief, as the danger still remained. Alvaro, observing the ladies could not support this cruel separation, engaged the amiable Lovemore, who, though he had the greatest friendship for Cleanthes, yet he had so much resignation and true Christian philosophy, that his arguments could not fail to convince our reason, without shocking our delicacy with long stories of other peoples bearing greater misfortunes than we had to struggle with.

After we had let him into the true state of our affairs, he said, with some indignation, how depraved is human nature, when passion governs reason! Sure vanity is the source of all the evils we labour under; or how could sir Charles imagine a young lady could consent to live with a man of his age and infirmities. I am sorry I cannot serve you in making

making him sensible of his folly ; but were I to interfere ; his resentment would know no bounds, as his pride makes him call advice contradiction, which he will not bear from a man not so rich as himself. Poor Semanthe, a petty tyrant in power, is always very insupportable ! But don't despair, something may happen to dissipate these clouds, that now seem to intercept the sun-shine of your fate.

He left us, and we went to Semanthe, whom we still found inconsolable for the loss of her lover : she could not, like her fair cousin, paint the dear Cleanthes crowned with laurels, and returning in triumph, to lay his trophies at her feet : nor could all our rhetoric assuage her grief ; till a letter from Cleanthes arrived to confirm a report spread of the rebels flying before Britannicus and his victorious troops. Fired with a just indignation at the dreadful havock these men have brought on every town thro' which they marched, fresh ardour seizes every breast ; none wishes to return inglorious home, but all press forward to pursue the flying foe. In this situation, added he, let not grief disturb my dear Semanthe's soul : for if I fall in battle, honour attends me to my tomb ; and if

I live, thy love, I hope, will be my great reward.

Though this news restored some peace to Semanthe, it proved the source of new troubles to Lucinda and me. Sir Charles, whose coward heart sunk into abject fears on every story raised by ignorant men, became so elevated, that he forgot the danger his country was exposed to, and with a lightness inseparable from weak minds, he gave a loose to joy; persecuting Lucinda, with his ill-timed passion, which provoked me so highly, that forgetting common sense and prudence, I took her hand and forced her from his arms, telling him, with great warmth, her brother had left her to my care; therefore I begged he would forbear his addresses, till I was assured he approved of his passion. In great rage he flung out of the room, and bid his daughter follow him.

You have destroyed all our schemes, cried Isabella; you know he will not bear contradiction. In the name of all the gods, what could you mean? or what had you to fear? you could not suppose Lucinda approved of his addresses: your vanity ought to have secured you from so rash an action; the consequence of which

which may be his forcing his daughter to give her hand to lord Simple.

Madam, says I, self-condemned, I stand before you: what a wretch has Cleanthes trusted with his love and fortune! O my Lucinda! how can I ever see your brother's face! Could you recal time, you might persuade him, I have no pretensions to Lucinda; now tis impossible! he will ever view me as a hated rival. What can you do to retreive this false step? indeed I am all despair.

You men, cried Isabella, with all your boasted strength of judgment have no notion of winding yourselves out of difficulties, but by desperate means, which too often lead you to cut the knot you can't untie. Now my favourite scheme is negotiating, therefore, as I see sir Charles and his daughter in the garden, I should not despair of success, could I inspire Lucinda with a little coquetry; but these prudent people are very hard to manage; they always keep their eyes fixed upon one point, which they will not swerve from upon any consideration

Lucinda

Lucinda declared she was so accustomed to let her heart correspond with her tongue, that she was quite a stranger to dissimulation. How then could she address herself to that detested man. Prithee don't be childish, cried the other, they are as willing to be deceived as we: do but give yourself a few airs, and tell him, in a sort of a pet, you was astonished to find he left the room, because a gentleman, your brother had left a sort of a guardian to you in his absence, had forced you from him without your consent. Some such thing, done with life and spirit, will begin a conversation, which done, leave the rest to me.

After waiting some time, I saw sir Charles, with an air of triumph, lead in Lucinda, saying, well, sir, the ladies have convinced me, you Italians have a jealousy in your nature not to be conquered; therefore I forgive the insult offered to a person of my dignity, as I find it proceeded from the great regard you bear to your friend Cleanthes. But know, if Lucinda is wise enough to yield to my proposals, I will endow her with more wealth than any of your noblemen can boast. On the contrary, if she refuses my alliance, you may assure him

AND SEMANTHE. 69

him from me, I will give my daughter to one superior to him both in title and estate.

With great sedateness I begged him to consider love was not to be commanded, therefore it would be great injustice to make his daughter's happiness depend on Lucinda's consent: that if he viewed mankind with an impartial eye, he would find Semanthe could not fix her regard on one more worthy to be his son than Cleanthes, whose soul was enriched with every virtue requisite to dignify human nature, which set him in a more exalted light than most of the peers of this rich and opulent kingdom could pretend to. That I knew, by experience, every action of his life was governed by justice and honour, to which I might add, humanity and a boundless generosity. Therefore I hoped, as he was now venturing his life in the defence of his country, he would, on his return, give him the lovely Semanthe to compleat his happiness.

These are fine romantic notions, cried sir Charles, invented by the light-headed young fellows of this age, to captivate unwary girls, but I have lived too long in the world to be caught with such baits,

baits, experience having taught me to prefer my own interest to all other considerations. If, by his persuasions, I can obtain his sister, in return, my daughter shall be his. If I cannot succeed with that lady, pray what use can I make of all his fine qualities? what is his honour and humanity to my purpose? and as to his boundless generosity, as you call it, that may, in time, reduce him to beggary. This is my firm resolution, so trouble me no more on that subject; for I am determined to be obeyed by my daughter, or she shall feel all the resentment of an enraged parent.

Dear sir, says Isabella, don't be so angry; I protest I could almost fancy myself at a tragedy, when, perhaps, it may end in a comedy. Cleanthes is at a great distance; you have nothing to fear from him; especially as you have clipt my cousin's wings so close, that she cannot fly out of her cage, were she ever so desirous of liberty. I wish Sprightly was here, for I am tired of the solemnity that appears in every face. Pray, dear Semanthe, dry thy eyes, and consider, tho' our affairs are bad, they might have been worse. I see the ladies are preparing to leave us, therefore shew some resolution

AND SEMANTHE. 71

solution at parting ; and then my uncle will, no doubt, let us return their visit in a few days.

I tell you I will not be governed, cried sir Charles, you shall subdue your stubborn hearts, and resign your wills to mine, before I permit you to fly out of your cage. What do you think my brother would have said, had he heard you play your wit upon me? Poor man, he little thought what a plague he had left me when he made me your guardian.

'Tis I that have reason to complain, cried Isabella, as I am sure my father did not sell me to you for a slave. Mercy on me! if it were not for my life and spirits, I do believe you and all your family would have been errand drones : as to your daughter, she would have dozed away one half of the day, and the other you would have taught her lessons of patience, till the poor soul might have made a special upper servant to any fool of a lord you had recommended. An evil nature actuated by passion, is not to be supported. Isabella grew warm, which so terrified Semanthe, that Lucinda interposed, and succeeded so well,

well, that he promised to forgive the saucy pertness of Bell.

I was no sooner out of his sight than I threw off the mask, and with great indignation painted out all his absurdities; his dirty cunning in drawing his daughter into an oath to destroy her own happiness, as well as that of her friends. Such a wretch as sir Charles, cried Lucinda, must be ignorant of the pleasing sensations which love and friendship raise in a generous mind. Did not my brother's fate depend on his daughter, I would soon convince him, the superior merit of Lorenzo has fixed my resolution to share his fortune: let this declaration secure your fears, and prevent you from placing me among the fickle part of my sex, whose follies I despise.

Inchanting maid, cried I, nature has formed thee, superior to all the little vain fantastic arts the young and gay pursue; from this blest moment I will banish jealousy from my tortured breast! Alas! I rave! your brother's happiness must prove my ruin! the crisis of my fate depends on his return. How can I extricate myself out of the dire evils that threaten to overwhelm me?

Trust

Trust to time, answered she, he with anwaried pace, flies on in an eternal round, presenting lucky hours to mortal man, which once lay buried in futurity : to him resign yourself, nor waste the present moments in brooding over ills that never may happen. Was I to indulge each womanish fear that crouds for entrance in my coward breast, I should be wretched in the absence of my brother.

Sure, cried I, some blessed angel has inspired thy tongue to banish fell dispair from my afflicted mind; while, in her room, the god of love, with all his smiling train of joys and young desires, attend to bring glad Hymen with his flaming torch, to lead Cleanthes and myself to his gay temple, there to compleat our happiness. No more I will suspect the fickle goddes Fortune! my place upon her ever-changing wheel depends on a superior power. Lucinda is the mistress of my fate! let her but smile, no danger shall dismay me! how soon my mind is off her guard. Mounted on fancy's wings, like the luxuriant bee, I have sipp'd from every flower the fragrant sweet, unmindful of the baleful serpent that lay hid behind the gaudy

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scene. But, O! it cannot last! Reason returns to banish hope, and shew each peril that attends my daring flights! Cleanthes is the man my soul approves! his virtues flourish fresh and fair! no time can e'er efface the love and gratitude I owe him.

Surrounded with numberless difficulties, we suffered the midnight hours to steal upon us unperceived, which forced me to resign the ladies to the god of sleep. In vain I flew to him for relief! No balmy slumbers closed my eyes, till the bright herald of the morn with cheerful songs proclaimed the approaching day! 'twas then all perturbation left my troubled breast, and sweet repose usurped the seat of fancy.

C H A P.

C H A P. X.

ON my coming down one morning, I met Alvaro, with so dejected a countenance, that I asked hastily what was the matter? Sir, answered he, that question surprises me! do I not see you involved in all the misfortunes of this family? I am far from blaming your passion for Lucinda, or your friendship for Cleanthes; they deserve it from you. All I would beg of you, is not to let them engross your whole attention. How can you so intirely forget all your youthful companions, your mother and your country?—Does it give you no pain when you reflect on all the connections you had in that once famous city? but above all, how do you intend to settle your affairs?

You are too severe in your censures, cried I, for you may be assured all these considerations by turns torment me; nor can I extricate myself out of my difficulties without your assistance. 'Tis only you, my Alvaro, that can sell my estate: you know cardinal Albina wants to purchase one, mine will suit him as

'tis near Rome: that done, there will be no difficulty in remitting the money hither. But then, as you value my peace of mind, use all your interest to persuade my mother to come and settle herself in this land of liberty; where she may enjoy her religion without molestation; and pray convince her no arguments shall be used to perplex her with doubts.

Could I live secure in that superstitious city, replied Alvaro, I would readily comply; but if, by any chance, it should be known, that I am what they call a heretic, my death must certainly be the consequence of the divine precepts of Mr. Lovemore, whose reasons I think of such force, that they would even convert the Pope himself, would he hear him with patience: therefore after I have consulted that good man, as to my behaviour, you may depend upon my utmost endeavours to serve you.

After we had laid the case before him, he declared he could not apprehend there was so much danger in the affair, as he saw no reason he could have to declare his sentiments, even to my mother; but at this time, added he, I can be of some service to you: Lord Easy, who was a pupil

pupil of mine, sets out for Rome in a few days : at my request, I know he will take Alvaro under his protection, and then I do not fear but this affair may be settled to all your satisfactions ; in the mean time do not let the cares and disappointments of this uncertain state weigh down your spirits in such a manner, as to make you despair of success in all you undertake.

He then begged an account of our last visit to sir Charles. Lucinda displayed Semanthe's sorrow, Isabella's wit, and my jealousy, in so lively a manner, that he very politely told her, he fancied the representation was much more pleasing than when performed by the different actors ; but he declared he could not think my fears were well-grounded, as he had heard all the ladies in the French court caressed cardinal Fleury ; and yet he believed, no one man harboured an uneasy thought upon his account, though he was a more formidable rival than sir Charles, as he had every requisite to make him agreeable in conversation : but still love and age in the same person must ever render him very ridiculous. And now, to speak in the phrase of you lovers, the queen of beauty and her

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wanton son, will never suffer her fairest votaries to be led in chains by so capricious a tyrant as sir Charles.

Had I your patience and resignation, cried I, they might enable me to raise my mind above the cross accidents of this world, but now 'tis impossible. I cannot suppose my affairs settled, Alvaro and my mother arrived safe in this island. Nay, should Cleanthes return victorious, what difficulties to overcome, before I could call Lucinda mine?

To add to all the gloomy ideas that floated in my brain, in came my evil genius, sir Charles, who, in his awkward manner, told her 'twas impossible he should live without seeing her, and he hoped he was come in a lucky time to fix the day, as he saw there was a parson ready to knit the knot.

Lovemore observing our distress, replied with great mildness, he was afraid he should not have that honour, as he knew the lady was under too much concern for her brother, to think of disposing of herself, till his return; therefore, if he pleased to consider, he would find it an unreasonable request.

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And pray, sir, says the other, who authorised you to tell me so? thank God, I am not priest-rid, nor ever will; and so I shall proceed as I think proper, without your consent. Besides, with all your wisdom, if she should lose her brother, she would want a protector; and if he returned, he would not be displeased to see his sister in my possession, as I should certainly give him my daughter.

That would indeed be an inestimable gift, replied Lovemore, as their affections are engaged to each other; for without that tie, marriage is but an uncomfortable state; which makes me conclude, you are convinced the young and blooming Lucinda prefers you to all her other admirers, or sure a man of sir Charles's experience would not continue to make his addresses to her. If this is the case, I must say you are the most happy man I ever knew of your time of life.

With great indignation sir Charles told him, it was no wonder he despised riches, as he had been bred up in narrow notions, and then thrust into a little corner of the world, where he had conversed with nothing but old musty authors and boys: but for his part, he had

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always lived in grandeur, and knew few ladies would reject a man of his fortune, though a little advanced in life, which he so injuriously pointed out ; but he despised his malice, and would have him to know, magnificent houses, fine equipages, rich attire, and sparkling jewels to attract the eyes of beholders, must always be preferred by a woman of sense, to what he called a comfortable subsistence with some young jackanapes, who, after a few years, would perhaps despise her, and then leave her immersed in all the painful cares of domestic poverty. This he supposed might suit some people's taste, as it would give them an opportunity of shewing their philosophy and moral rectitude, mixed with a pride and vanity not to be accounted for.

There is no answering any gentleman, cried Lovemore, whose possessions set him above reason, and make him look down upon all those that move in a sphere beneath him ; not considering true greatness of mind consists in valuing men according to their merit, let their circumstances be ever so mean : but as equality is the life of conversation, and that can never be the case between sir Charles and me, I will return to my humble habitation

bitation, where I am sure to meet with content; for as fortune is not in my power, I will be as little as possible in hers. He then took his leave of sir Charles with a cold respect, and of Lucinda with great marks of esteem.

Sir Charles, with a scornful smile, said, don't you think, madam, I was in the right to humble that saucy priest, for pretending to deter me from making my addresses, because I am some years older than you? but I know you are too wise to mind his old-fashioned maxims of union of hearts and love before marriage. Come, clear that discontented brow, and tell me you will comply with my request, and then I shall be happy.

You have given me great pain indeed, sir Charles; I could hardly bear to see you use that worthy man so roughly, for only talking reason to you. What must I expect if I was your wife? such an overbearing temper must make me wretched: therefore, if you value my good opinion, learn a more easy manner of conversing with those you may think beneath you; for you may be assured, good sense, humanity, and integrity of heart, are of more real value than riches and honours without them: and as to

the ladies, I do insist upon seeing them when I please. These preliminaries settled, I may in time hope to find you more worthy my esteem; till then, do not persecute me with a passion I cannot yet return; nor is it just in you to make your daughter miserable, till I bribe you to make her happy, by giving myself and fortune into your power.

Sir Charles stood like one thunderstruck for some moments, and then told her, he saw her father-confessor had filled her head with romantic notions of love; or why was he treated in so injurious a manner? that though he regarded her more than any thing in this world, yet he would not live a woman's slave, nor lose the pleasure of revenging her ill usage upon Cleanthes; and as for Semanthe, the fickleness of her sex, with the company of a new lover, would soon banish Cleanthes from her heart. Therefore, if she had any regard for her brother's peace of mind, she must give him her hand, and promise to be less cruel for the future.

Lucinda was so frightened at his menace, that she suffered him to take a more obliging leave of her than she intended; but he was no sooner gone, than she

shed

shed a torrent of tears, lamenting the wretched situation she was reduced to. By degrees we brought her to a more composed temper of mind, though still very melancholy. Some days were passed since we had either seen or heard from sir Charles, which made us fear his resentment might lead him into some schemes destructive to Cleanthes : at last, Lovemore introduced lord Easy, who very politely told me he was so well acquainted with my virtues and misfortunes, that I might depend on his making Alvaro his peculiar care. Lucinda entered with so dejected an air, that lord Easy was struck with her appearance, and said, beauty in distress demanded compassion from the most savage hearts ; therefore, madam, let me beg you to moderate your grief till your brother's return ; his good sense and steady resolution will find out some method to extricate you out of your difficulties ; but I know Lovemore is impatient to hear how sir Charles behaved after he left you.

The ferocity of that man's temper, cried I, is not to be described ; even Lucinda became the object of his ill manners, for no one reason but her giv-

ing Mr. Lovemore the character he deserves.

I am sorry, said the benevolent man, that I should be the innocent cause of new vexations to any one of this company. Poor creature! I pity him for his pride and ill-nature, which never can give me a moment's pain, but as it concerns the peace of my friends. He then begged lord Easy would make him a visit, that they might learn what temper he was in. I will readily comply with your request, said my lord; though I confess I have no hopes of any person whose resentments are so violent, that they get the better of any friendships they can contract; nay, I fear even paternal love will not secure his affections to his daughter: but be that as it will, you may command me.

Accordingly he set out, and found sir Charles indisposed, consequently very cross and peevish. The first compliments over, lord Easy turned the discourse upon the great merit of Cleanthes, who, like a true patriot, was venturing his life for the good of his country. I cannot see so much in his behaviour as your lordship expresses; he has a large stake in the hedge, which he does

does not care to part with any more than myself ; besides, he is but one of great numbers, who have as much merit to plead as he can pretend to ; but I suppose your lordship has been with Lovemore, who paints me like a many-headed monster, because I will not let him govern me : but as I am no child, I shall take the liberty of disposing of Semanthe as I please, and not as he directs ; and if your lordship will do me the favour to tell him I despise his plots, I shall be much obliged to you.

I believe, said lord Easy, I should find no great difficulty in convincing him that sir Charles Wealthy views all the exalted virtues of his mind in the injurious light that passion and prejudice have fixed in his imagination : but as I have no right to interfere in your affairs, I only wish you may make both yourself and the fair Semanthe happy.

On his return he related this conversation, when fixing his eyes upon Lucrezia, he said, sure, madam, your charms have worked a miracle, or how could a soul void of every social virtue, feel the power of beauty ? don't be jealous, Lorenzo, for though I own every attractive

tive grace that adorns her person, yet I must confess it is her mind that strikes me with admiration, when I consider the ills she suffers, in compliance to the sacred laws of friendship. But what are these refined notions to a wretch that hates Cleanthes and Lovemore, for no other reason, but that their exalted souls move in a constant steady course of morality, without the poultry pride, and ill governed rancour, that makes him the object of contempt and scorn ; nor do I see how you can mollify his fierce unrelenting temper. However, I do not find he has any new projects to add to your misery ; and, what is very strange, he does not suspect Lorenzo's having any pretensions to Lucinda. It is Lovemore's advice that alarms him ; for as to disparity of years and a disagreeable person, vanity has reconciled him to all that can be said to dissuade him from his pretensions.

After much discourse on this head, the conversation turned upon the news arrived at court of a great victory gained over the rebels ; but, added he, when I set out, there was no account of the killed and wounded. Lucinda, roused from

from the thoughts that had engrossed her mind for some days, said with a deep sigh, alas, my brother! who knows but death has robbed us of that deserving youth? Mr. Allgood told her, it would be time enough to mourn, when she was certain of so dreadful a loss.

After lord Easy had taken leave of us in the most graceful manner, the moment arrived when I was to part with Alvaro, who, from my infancy, had been a faithful mirror, that had shewed me my errors in so just a light, that, notwithstanding the impetuosity of my temper, he never flattered my passions, nor told me my faults in so shocking a manner as to make me ashamed to own them, and at the same instant resolve to guard against them for the future. But now this constant guide was to leave me, and expose himself to new dangers on my account. This consideration made me embrace him as my father; and, in return, I saw his manly breast was shook with sorrow, while on my cheek the silent tear descended, I caught the soft infection; 'till roused from the grief that had seized him, he said, O, sir, let prudence and fortitude support you through all

all the misfortunes you are now involved in. Ladies, added he, may every blessing attend you! I know my dear Mr. Lovemore and Mr. Allgood will be constant guides to fair Lucinda's inexperienced years: to their protection I resign my Lorenzo; and now, my lord, I am ready to attend you.

As we could none of us bid him farewell, we stood gazing at the coach 'till it was out of sight. Lovemore had said every thing proper to make me submit to what could not be avoided; even my Lucinda seemed to forget her own sorrows, to make me bear the oppressive load of grief that seized me, when I considered sir Charles's passion for Lucinda, her brother's danger, the consternation that would overwhelm my mother, and all my friends, when they saw Alvaro return without me. However, I bore up pretty well 'till I retired, and then I was convinced a cool head and a warm heart seldom meet in the same person; for I immediately fancied lord Easy's compassion for Lucinda could proceed from nothing less than love, and if so, he was indeed a very formidable rival. Thus industrious to torment myself, I gave way

way to the natural jealousy of my temper. These reflections redoubled my distress, and at last I concluded I was certainly the most unfortunate man breathing. But you will find the next day was productive of new sorrows, that had like to have plunged us into despair.

C H A P. XI.

THE next day a servant informed me a gentleman named Belmour was come from his master, and desired to speak with me in the Park; but that the ladies must not yet know of his arrival. Terrified at his words, I cried out, good heaven! what is his business? where is Cleanthes? come, conduct me to this dreadful messenger of fate; imagination is too busy in tormenting me.

I soon saw a man with a dejected air advance to meet me; we stood silent some moments; then, with a sigh, he said, Sir, I come to mourn with you a victory, that may still rob us of the brave and generous Cleanthes. I beg you will not keep me in suspence, but tell me what hope there is of his recovery. The symptoms were more favourable when he insisted on my leaving him, to give you a relation of all that has passed since the last engagement: but alas, sir, how can I banish your fears, when absence increases my own! that too daring youth, prodigal of life, followed Bitannicus through all the dangers

of

of uncertain war. Victory attended our arms ; but in the last engagement, Cleanthes, when the battle raged, observing an audacious villain level his piece at Britannicus, struck with horror at the sight, Cleanthes killed the wretch ; which so enraged his followers, that, over-powered by numbers, he bravely fell, and must have been murdered, had not a party sent by the prince, brought off the wounded hero. With grief of heart I saw the man who had snatched me from all the follies of unwary youth, carried like a lifeless corps to his tent, where I had no hopes of his recovery, 'till Britannicus came attended by surgeons. O, sir, had you seen the sorrow that appeared in every face, when we beheld his gaping wounds, you would have pitied our distress ! Pain brought him to his sences, when fixing his eyes on our general, he said, young prince, farewell ; glory can charm no more ; with joy I leave my country under your protection : may conquest attend your arms, while bravely you defend our liberty and laws. And, O good heaven ! grant my last request, that every brave and valiant soldier may, like me, sacrifice his life to save Britannicus—I can no more, darkness o'er takes me, and I sink to rest.

This

This said, he fainted in my arms. With what compassion did the prince behold the almost dying Cleanthes! crying, too cruel fate! why wilt thou rob me of so true a mirror? no flattery ever stained his manly sense; truth and honour shone conspicuous in his face, unlike the tribe of fawning courtiers, merit in rags still found in him a patron: true to the interest of his country, her freedom was his ruling passion. O that some skilful artist, with his medicinal drugs, could yet recall the flitting soul, to share with me the honours of this day! but if it is otherwise decreed, his sacred relicks shall be solemnly interred among the famous heroes of our isle.

Soon after his senses returned, but then he continued so extremely ill, that for some time his life was despaired of. As I seldom left him, I often heard him, in a low and trembling voice, complain of his wretched fate, which would not permit him to die in the arms of his dear Semanthe. Amazed to find his steady soul fettered in Cupid's silken bands, and finding his melancholy retarded his cure, I said, to you, Cleanthes, I owe every blessing I enjoy; by your advice I left the flowery road where pleasure

AND SEMANTHE. 93

pleasure dwelt, to follow wisdom's stern decrees : nor can you forget the bitter conflicts I endured, when you insisted on my leaving that triumphant beauty, that false though fair Italian. Skilled in all the subtleties of woman, the blooming hypocrite deceived my unsuspecting nature. Deaf to honour's call, I still had lived a slave to beauty, had not you, my friend, recalled my wandering reason ; it was then I listened to your precepts, and tore my heart from the too lovely perfumed fair. How then do you acquit yourself of a weakness which you condemn in others ? You mistake the cause of my unhappiness ; had guilt or falsehood ever stained my dear Semanthe's soul, with ease I should regain my freedom. But, believe me, her lovely face is but the transcript of her mind, to shew the beauteous guest that is lodged within.

Convinced by his arguments, I consented to leave him, to learn from you the true state of your affairs.

Isabella joining us, she appeared the very child of sorrow ; crying out, O Lorenzo, I am in the greatest distress ; I cannot see Lucinda, a letter from Sprightly informs me Cleanthes is dead of the wounds he received in the last battle.

battle. Poor Semanthe will lose her senses by the inhumanity of her father, who, with an air of triumph, told her, heaven had now punished her disobedience to him.

Infamous wretch! said Belmour; he lives to reward her virtue. Fly, madam, and bring the lovely mourner, that I may convince her, crowned with conquest and renown, he will soon return, to lay his trophies at her feet.

As he still lives, answered Isabella, how did false rumour spread this fatal news, to wound the tender heart of his Semanthe? or how could Sprightly be deceived?

I can easily account for his mistake, said Belmour, as he went in pursuit of the rebels; therefore let not your fears for him damp your rising joy. We have driven them to their caves and dens, where want must be their sad companions: this done, the prince returned to court, and with him Sprightly.

Isabella, with her usual chearfulness, told him, had the famous Delphic oracle disclosed such happy tidings, the riches of the world had been too poor a gift for gratitude to pay.

Here

Here the ladies, impatient to know the cause of my absence, approached us with consternation painted in their faces asking hastily, if that gentleman was not come from Cleanthes? After they had been informed of all that had passed, Lucinda seemed wracked with a thousand fears for the fate of a beloved and tender brother.

In this distress we arrived at Wealthy Place, where we found Semanthe trembling and pale, as if the grisly king of terrors had then appeared, to snatch her from the world.

Struck with the dignity of this mourning beauty, Belmour said, charming fair! in pity to your sufferings, heaven has spared the brave Cleanthes, to shew the admiring world, virtue is its peculiar care. Suffer not then a father's harsh commands to fright the god of love from your soft bosom: this moment seize blind fortune by the tresses, and fly with me to lov'd Cleanthes's arms. Despise the little narrow forms which custom has established, to lead the female mind in abject chains. Like the first beauteous form that charmed our noble ancestor, your presence would relieve his anxious cares, and raise his drooping spirits.

Your

Your friendship for Cleanthes, replied she, hurries you beyond the bounds of reason. Alas, a solemn oath has passed my lips, never to give my hand, 'till my father ratifies my choice by his consent: then how can I escape the dreadful storm that now seems ready to fall on my devoted head? but tell Cleanthes, dear as he is, my soul can bear misfortune's pointed sting, as long as I am innocent of fraud.

On sir Charles's coming in, Belmour told him, he came from Cleanthes, to wish him joy of the defeat of the rebels; adding, nothing but the weak state of his health could have prevented him from coming to lay his laurels at Semanthe's feet.

Perhaps, said sir Charles, he might have been forced to take them up again with disgrace, without his sister had determined to comply with the conditions I proposed to him.

Belmour, whose passions too often got the better of his judgment, swore solemnly it was the most unreasonable request he ever heard of. Where could he find a man so worthy of his daughter as Cleanthes? but some people were blind to the good that courts them. You are

very

very clear sighted into what does not concern you ; but I won't be bullied. I know my own interest, which tells me Lucinda must be mine, or else I will disturb their happiness, as sweet revenge is in my power.

A profound silence ensued ; the ladies burst into tears : in this distress we heard a great noise in the hall. Sir Charles bid them for shame dry their eyes, or his nephew would wonder what was the matter.

Immediately after in bounced a tall handsome young fellow booted and spurred, with an open cheerful countenance. Heyday ! cried he, what's here to pay ? three pretty girls in tears ! o'ds heart, uncle, I'll be hanged if you have not been scolding at them : come, confess the truth, is it not so ?

I am not obliged to answer your impudent questions ; but if you must know the cause, Semanthe is crying for a husband ; Isabella, because she cannot coquet with all the coxcombs in the country ; and as to the charming Lucinda, she, I suppose, is sorry that it is in my power to force her to marry a man that will make her happy.

And pray, sir, how came you by that power ? is Cleanthes dead, and has he

left you her guardian ? if so, I am very sorry for it, as he was a very clever man. Alas ! I fear he was killed in the last battle.

You need not give yourself any uneasiness about him, he is not dead ; and yet I will not give up my power ; if I should, they know the consequence.

By Jupiter ! I'll have no such doings : you shall not force her to marry any body, for I will defend her 'till her brother comes home. Therefore, madam, dry your tears, and name the person that persecutes you ; and if I do not make him give up his pretensions, then say Bob Rustick is no good sportsman ; and as to Semanthe, if she will take me for better for worse, I will settle my whole estate upon her, with Rustick Hall into the bargain ; nor will I leave Bell out of my scheme, for she shall live with us, and coquet as much as she pleases. Why what the devil is the matter ? the ladies are more inconsolable than ever, and my uncle is flown away more like a fury than a man ; and yet I am sure I have said no harm. Dear Bell, unravel this mystery.

Well, replied Isabella, you may be an excellent sportsman, for aught I know,
but

AND SEMANTHE. 99

but I'll be sworn you are no conjuror ; if you had, you would have found out that your uncle is in love with Lucinda himself.

That is impossible ; no, no, you shall never persuade me that it could cost her one tear, to dismiss half a score such old souls as he. Why let me see, my mother was fifty-four the ninth of last May, and this brother of hers is five years older than she. How then can he suppose a pretty young creature of eighteen, with a large fortune, will lay it out to purchase such an antiquated piece of household stuff as he ? Pray, ladies, tell me the truth ; for as to Bell, she has too much wit to answer a plain question ; 'tis impossible she should be under any sort of concern on his account.

Always in the wrong, cried Isabella, because you never think ; if you did, you would perceive there was a possibility of Cleanthes and Semanthe being in love with each other ; how then can he obtain your cousin, without sacrificing his sister to your uncle ?

Ho, ho ! now I smoke the affair. O lud ! what will this world come to ? but I have a plot that may set all right.

There is a tenant of mine that has a fine girl for his daughter; now if he will settle a good jointure upon her, I will strike the bargain. What say you, shall I propose it to him?

By no means; for though he uses me cruelly, he is still my father, and shall not be made a joke of; not but I will endeavour to extricate these deserving lovers out of the misfortunes their friendship to Cleanthes has involved them in.

If you will be ruled by me, said Rustick, run away, and don't sit drivelling here. I love a girl of spirit; go, pack up your rags and ribbands, for you may depend upon my detaining sir Charles 'till you are got off. What is your opinion, gentlemen? We declared we did not know how to advise them, in the perplexed condition their affairs were in. If you did, cried Rustick, it is now too late, for there is lord Simple's coach, and with him old Tymon; so farewell, for I detest them both. We all begged him to stay as long as they did, and come to the Castle the next morning, to give us the history of that family. He complied, and at parting told me, if we would

AND SEMANTHE. ^{for}
would come to Rustick Hall, he would
make us as welcome as princes.

We were no sooner out of sight, than
Belmour, in a very peevish tone of voice,
told me, he wondered how I could keep
my temper, when that old satyr declared
his pretensions to Lucinda. Semanthe,
added he, is an angel of a woman. I
pity Cleanthes, for that absurd wretch
will never give him his daughter. I am
resolved never to see him more, for I am
no stoic, therefore have passions which
are not in my power to command: but
this I know, if I was Semanthe, I
would run away to Cleanthes, though,
for my oath's sake, I would not marry
him.

Mrs. Allgood opposed him with some
warmth. He grew tired, and begged
they might call a new cause; then turn-
ing to me, he said, I fancy, Sir, in all
your travels you never met with such a
man as Rustick, as I believe no coun-
try but this ever produces any of this
species of mortals. We all declared we
were much pleased with him, as he
seemed to have an honest heart, with a
readiness to serve the unfortunate. After
he had answered all our questions in re-

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lation to the health of Cleanthes, he begged we would depend upon his care; and as Semanthe could not favour him with a line, we would take care not to shock him with the addresses of lord Simple.

CHAP.

C H A P. XII.

THE next morning he left us with so fixed and solemn a countenance, that we feared he had disguised the danger Cleanthes was in. In this dejected state of mind, we strolled into the Park, where we thought every creature looked gay and happy but ourselves : but alas ! we had not gone far, before we saw a well-dressed youth lying on the ground so deep in thought, that he did not perceive us. We stopped, when with a deep sigh we heard him say, whither can I fly, or how avoid a loathsome prison ? ungrateful, perjured, false, deceitful friend, how couldst thou draw in my unsuspecting nature to commit a fault my father never will forgive !

On seeing us, he prepared to fly from us ; but I begged him to stay, and inform us how we might serve him. What pity can a wretch deserve, who has been the author of his own misfortunes ?

Let our crimes be ever so great, cried Lucinda, if we repent, we may expect pardon both here and hereafter : there-

F 4 fore

fore she hoped he would let us share his sorrows, if we could not relieve them.

When a lady of your noble appearance deigns to take notice of so lost a thing as I am, she must be obeyed. My name is Trueman, the eldest son of a wealthy merchant, who bred me up to all the polite studies that might make me worthy of the fortune he designed me. But I have forfeited all those pleasing prospects, by contracting a more than ordinary friendship for a schoolfellow, who was seven years older than myself; so that he was my protector in my childish progress through a great school, where the different passions, false views, vile cunning, and a little selfishness, appeared like the enormous vices of the great world in miniature.

This ungrateful wretch, whose name was Wildair, was at the head of this small republic; but as he was a child of fortune, in a few years he removed to one of the inns of court. But there he kept up his interest in my heart, by sending me small sums of money, to help out the allowance my father allotted for my pocket expences. For these tokens of his love, my grateful soul was always

ways ready to comply with whatever he desired.

I was no sooner of age, than he grew melancholy, and affected to shun my company. Amazed at the alteration I observed in him, I pressed to know the cause of that cold reserve that had robbed me of my friend. My dear Trueman, said he, what you condemn in me was only the effect of my tender regard for your peace of mind: but as I find you think it proceeds from a fickleness in my temper, I will trust you with the secret.

I am in the greatest distress for five hundred pounds, which would be the making of me, as it would enable me to marry a great fortune, and then I could soon repay it with interest. I expressed great concern that I could not command such a sum: the dissembling hypocrite folding me in his arms, told me, there was but one way that I could serve him; for as I was the son of a rich man, any body would let him have it, if I would be bound for it; but he hoped I did him the justice to believe he would not draw me into an action he knew my father never would forgive.

I stopped him from saying any more, as I had no doubt upon his account, but was ready to sign any paper that might be of service to him. I had no sooner given my consent, than he brought in an old miser with the cursed instrument of my ruin, which I signed, after a thousand protestations of paying it in six months.

He then seemed all gay and cheerful, and at parting begged me to let no idle fears disturb my mind, for every thing went just as he could wish. When I was in the country, all his letters were to the same effect : but alas ! I was soon undeceived by a gentleman, who told me, my friend Wildair was turned out a villain, and had got several sums of money, under the pretence of marrying a great fortune ; but the love of gaming had drawn him into the most atrocious crimes.

I'll leave you to judge how shocking this explanation was to me. I used all my endeavours to see him, but in vain ; the wretch is run away, the time is out, and the bond is demanded of my father. No words can express his rage ; he ordered me to quit his house, and keep out of the way, lest I died in gaol.

He

He had other children to heir the fruits of his industry ; therefore he should no more look upon me as a son, though he would allow me something to keep me from starving. But what adds greatly to my distreis, is the grief of my mother and sister ; nor can I ever forget their prayers and tears to an obdurate, though hitherto an indulgent husband and father : with a stern countenance he commanded them never to name me more, as they valued his love and esteem.

My mother, finding all her endeavours fruitleſſ, left me in the bittereſt agonies of mind ; but ſhe ſoon returned, and, with the tendereſt embraces, gave me a ſmall ſum of money : nor did my ſister, though in the bloom of youth and beauty, ſuffer me to refuse her mite, as ſhe prettily called it. Overpowered with ſorrow, I could make no anſwer, 'till a message came to haſten my departure. I then ſaid all I could to ſupport their ſpirits, but in vain : my mother swooned in my arms. My ſister's ſcreams brought my father, who ordered me to leave his house that moment, without I intended to be the death of the beſt of women. As to my cloaths and books, they ſhould be ſent after me, when I had got a place
to

to hide myself in. I made no reply, but left the room, dismissed my servant, got my horse, and rid full speed to this place. As I knew Cleanthes at the university, I thought his advice would enable me to bear the ills that sink me almost into despair.

I am his sister, said Lucinda ; and in his name I bid you welcome to his house, where, safe from every danger, you may consult this gentleman, what way can be found out to appease this cruel father, who casts off a son for being deceived by an ungrateful wretch.

Trueman, surprized at her behaviour, cried out, good heaven ! is it possible ? can chance have led me to the sister of that worthy man ?

Were it possible for young folks to reap any advantage from ths experience of others, replied Mrs. Allgood, the first disappointment would not sit so heavy on their minds. You do not consider you left your father in the height of his passion. Time must moderate his fury, and then nature will step in to excuse the fault of a child, whose error proceeded from the goodness of his own heart. Suspicions are inseparable from age, as they must have met with ingratitude

titude and falsehood in their journey through life ; which leads me to think the path we tread is pointed out by a superior power. No human prudence can guard us from vexations ; if it could, I should not now be involved in all the tumultuous passions of a set of lovers, who are made miserable by the absurdity of one depraved old man. I wish they could promise themselves as happy an end of their affairs, as you may justly expect : therefore, till a reconciliation is brought about, let not false modesty tempt you to shun a certain good, to run upon hardships you may avoid, by accepting Lucinda's invitation.

Trueman thankfully acknowledged their favours, and said every thing proper to convince us he had good sense and politeness. We found Rustick at the Castle, who seemed disconcerted at the sight of a stranger. We then let him into the story, and begged him to tell us what had passed at his uncle's.

C H A P. XIII.

Y O U had not been gone long before lord Simple assured him, nothing but the uncommon joy he felt at waiting on him, could have forced him to leave his house in an easterly wind, as it was very apt to affect his nerves, and give him the head-ach.

If your lordship would rise before day, cried I, and go a hunting with me, you would have none of these womanish complaints.

Mr. Rustick, replied the creature, I detest all robust exercises; I leave them to your more plebian constitutions: I protest I am so ignorant in all country-amusements that I don't know a hound from a bull-dog: and what will surprize you more, I never saw the sun rise, as I seldom quit my bed till ten; for if I do it disorders me, and before night I am so tired that I can hardly lift my hand to my head.

I told him every body should be happy in their own way; so that if he chose to give up health for the delicacy of a fine

fine lady, I should never envy him that inactivity he was so fond of.

My uncle, in a fury, told me I was a brute, and not fit for civil society; therefore he commanded me to hold my tongue, and learn to behave myself like a gentleman. Accordingly down I sat, and listened with great attention to Ty-mon, who was disputing with Bell in his usual harshness of stile.

He declared he never would advise a young fellow to marry what the world called a sensible woman; as it rendered them vain and conceited, which made them think themselves above all domestic employments.

I am not surprized at your saying so, returned Bell, nor that you think one of your insipid creatures would make a better, or a more complying wife: No, no, the true reason is, they know a woman of sense would see through the different disguises they put on to hide their unbounded love of power, which very often ends in tyranny, not to mention ill-nature, which they would make a simple woman believe was nothing but the depth of thought and profound wisdom: Come, confess, is not this the case? for it must be provoking to have a wife that can

can see, when her lord and master has a mind she should be stark blind.

With a contemptuous smile he told her, the men were much obliged to her for the good opinion she had entertained of the whole sex.

I beg your pardon, I only intend what I have said for individuals; no doubt there are a much greater number of open generous-hearted men, who have nothing to hide: good-natured souls, who know perfection is not to be found in any human being: therefore, from the foibles and faults they find in themselves, they learn to be favourable to those of others. If ever I alter my way of living, may I meet with a governor that will speak his mind freely; if he is angry let him tell me so; and if he should be in the wrong let him own it, and then there is an end of the debate; such a man must be happy, if he keeps clear of one of your simpletons.

This last speech threw him into one of his dumb fits. With contracted brows he sat silent; which she perceiving, she addressed my lord in the true spirit of coquetry. He seemed mightily pleased with her, but I saw my uncle

cle was hoarding up vengeance against her.

All this time poor Semanthe was engaged by Letty Simple, who is so insipidly good-humoured, so foolishly civil, and so awkwardly well-bred, that she is my aversion as much as Tymon. Tired to death I sat longing to have my tongue at liberty, when, to my great joy, I heard Letty advise her brother not to trust his delicate constitution to the evening damps, which, she had heard him say, was almost as fatal to him as a cannon ball.

Mifs, answered the peer, that was immensely kind, for I find so many charms in this company, that I was quite off my guard. Pray, cousin Tymon, order the coach, and draw up one of the windows, for I have dreadful apprehensions I shall take cold. I could hold out no longer, but fell into a great fit of laughter, which a little disconcerted the peer. At last, with a long string of compliments, they departed; and my uncle fell upon Bell, like a fury; telling her he saw through her plot to disappoint him of his revenge; but all her arts would be in vain, as he was determined to give him Semanthe, if, as he suspected, Lucinda had given her heart to that foreigner, who
was

was so discomposed when he took notice of her.

Bless me, replied Isabella, you need be in no pain on my account; for I would no more lead my life with that fool and his easterly winds and damp evenings, than I would refuse a sensible man that would deliver me out of my present bondage; nor can you suppose your daughter will forsake so fine a gentleman as Cleanthes, to marry a wretch beneath contempt.

Sir Charles was so very outrageous, that he was going to forbid her his house. So brutish a behaviour made me so angry, that I told him if he did, my mother would receive her as a gift from heaven. Therefore, Bell, added I, don't be frightened. By my soul, one would think you was gone mad, or you would never think of giving so fine a woman as your daughter to that ideot because he has a title: a wretch that must be scorned by the men, and hated by the women! And as to Lucinda, what reason have you to fear any particular man? why, I am your rival; every man must wish her a better fate than to be subject to your capricious temper.

He made me no answer: but Semanthe, with a composed countenance, told him, though she had sworn not to dispose of herself, without his consent, he was under the same sacred obligation never to force her into a state that would make her miserable. Therefore she was determined to live single, if he would not suffer her to give her hand to the only person she could love.

Very fine, truly; so I am to be governed by children! but I shall find a way to humble your proud spirits; so pray keep out of my sight, lest you urge me to do a deed I may repent of. I also order you, Mr. Rustick, to quit my house, nor ever dare to come into my presence till you have learned to know your distance.

Ill temper, said I, neither makes nor secures friends; so farewell, you injured innocents; may good fortune be your guide. After we had lamented Semanthe's hard fate, we begged to know how he came to take so great a dislike to Tymon.

First, said he introduce me to that young fellow, who withdrew on my coming in; for though I am a plain man, I am not void of humanity; and perhaps

haps my story may give him a hint how to manage his father: he received him with more signs of affection than civility, bidding him not be cast down, but trust to the chapter of accidents, as he had always done. These old fellows will have their way. But all will be well; I know your house: I shall go a hunting to-morrow, and I will certainly call to let your mother and sister know you are not destitute of friends; and if I meet with the old man, I will have a brush with him: but now to my story.

I believe you will confess I have reason to hate him; when I tell you he designed Letty Simple for my wife; he proposed it to my father, who was prodigiously pleased with the alliance. He proposed it to me in the most pompous manner, as they were the most antient and illustrious family in the kingdom; that there were few persons of note that are not in some shape or other related to the Simples: besides she had a very good estate; part of which joined to mine. So advantageous a proffer must be complied with, or he should think me a mad man.

I made no answer, though I was determined not to comply; but I suppose

he

he thought silence gave consent: upon which, one day as I came from hunting, Tymon, with a very majestic voice, said, really, sir, if you persist in this way of spending your time, among horses and dogs, I shall not think you a rational creature. What figure do you suppose you will make, if you take no pains to furnish your mind with ideas that will enable you to shake off that shocking rusticity that amazes me? Therefore take my advice, as you value your reputation.

I am more amazed than you can be, to find a man of your deep thought and reflexion giving your advice to one that never asked it. Besides, if I am not a rational creature, what signifies your painting me in such a light, that if I am not a direct fool, I must think you say all this purely to vent your spleen and ill-nature?

I see you are incorrigible, so enjoy your own ignorance. For the future, I shall think you beneath my notice, much more my alliance.

You will now save me a great deal of trouble; for I did not know how to tell my father I would not marry your cousin, if she was possessed of all her brother's estate. There is fuel for your pride, which

which I shall not trouble myself about: the worst you can say of me, if you speak truth, is that I am an ill-bred, honest fellow; and in return, I will own you a learned, sententious man, who, from pride and vanity, by degrees, brought yourself to despise one half of the world, and to hate the other; and so farewell. I will go see my horses.

As I expected, he made heavy complaints of me to my father, how ill I had used him, broke off the match, and left the house in the sullens: but my father, the first moment he saw me, poured out so many unreasonable things against me, that giving way to my passion, I made myself the aggressor. Enraged at my answers, he forbid me his house; nor could my mother prevent my banishment. Away I went to my friend Wilfull's, and he, I found, was setting out for our metropolis. I went with him, and immediately entered into all the diversions of the town, was in several riots at the play-house. By my indiscretion, I got into scrapes that cost me more than my small allowance could support; so that in a few months, I longed for nothing so much as to return home: but how to bring it about I could not

not tell. There are tempers that no submission can mollify; therefore I attacked his family pride by pretending to be in love with one of the girls that danced upon the stage, and accordingly let words drop that I would marry her.

This, as I expected, he was soon informed of. He immediately ordered me to return home. I obeyed, and he received me tolerably well. But lest he should suspect my plot, I affected being much alone, forbore all my former diversions: he seemed frightened; the parent returned; we came to an explanation; and I, out of meer filial piety, gave up my imaginary mistress, which pleased him so much, that peace and harmony were restored to our family.

We assured him we were much obliged to him for the entertainment he had given us. We then desired he would let us into the character of his sister; as we had been told, sir Charles never saw her without saying something to shock her honest nature.

My uncle's ill temper has been a misfortune to Fanny: Semanthe and Bell. would have taught her some of the delicacies and graces of the fair-sex; which, added to the more substantial virtues my mother

mother imprinted in her youthful mind, would have made her a very clever girl. But my mother and he has been long at variance; so you may judge of her manners, as I have been the original she has copied. Without doubt, she rides on horse-back much better than she dances; and prefers the cry of a pack of hounds, to all the opera tunes in the universe: But I'll tell you a short story of her, which will shew her honest, plain simplicity.

Wilfull, who has been conversant with the artful beauties of the town, saw something in her that pleased him. He addressed her with all the flattering speeches of the gay world. Instead of being pleased, she asked him very hastily, if he was not ashamed to tell so many stories, without he thought she put on her cap in a pale of water; for if ever she looked into a glass, she must know that Molly, the farmer's daughter, was composed of as fine a sort of clay as herself. And had she as much money, she would be intitled to ruby lips and starry eyes, as well as herself. His vanity was greatly hurt: he complained of her to me, in pretty severe terms. I told her she had been rude to him. That if she behaved so,

so, she would never get a husband. O dear heart! what, is the man angry? and if he is, I don't care; for I don't like him; and so pray tell him; for if I cannot meet with one I like better, I assure you I'll never marry. What, because he has had an estate left him, I warrant you he thought I should run mad for joy, that he would do me the honour to treat me like a fool, till he got me into his power, and then, perhaps, he would call me an under-bred country toad, as he did poor Molly, because she would not let him kiss and pull her about.

Finding I could not manage this affair, I called in my mother to assist me. She said all that was proper on the occasion; but, in vain. Her answer was, dear madam, why do you persuade me to give my hand to a man I cannot abide, when you commended my brother for refusing Miss Simple?

We had then a grand consultation how we could acquaint him with her resolutions without offending him, as he has a great deal of pride and vanity: but our endeavours proved ineffectual; he left us with all the marks of a disappointed lover. I have never seen him

since; but I hear he resents her refusal so highly, that he does not place her in the light she deserves. But to convince you what I say is true, I beg you will visit my habitation; for though I am not polite myself, I admire it in those who have the good fortune to appear so easy and disengaged, that their civility seems natural to them. But I hate to see an awkward fellow labouring at what he can never attain to. I love people should be what nature designed them, rather than wear a mask to decieve the world.

I told him, I admired his notions so greatly, that I hoped all ceremony between us might be laid aside; and that he would sometimes allow me to see the sun rise, when he went a hunting.

That is a pleasure I did not expect. Come, sir, give me your hand; and as Cleanthes has his best horses with him, you and Trueman may command my stables. What say you, ladies, will you dine with us to-morrow? that at my return I may have the joy of telling Trueman some news of his family. Your request is so very obliging, cri-
ed

ed Lucinda, that if you will promise to excuse this abrupt visit to your mother, we will wait on her with pleasure. I am all obedience, replied Rustick, and so I am yours till to-morrow.

G 2 CHAP.

C H A P. XIV.

TRUEMAN, impatient to hear what reception Rustick met with at his father's house, we set forward, each having his thoughts taken up with his own affairs. We all longed to hear from Cleanthes and Alvaro. Trueman, to remove the cloud he saw on our brows, would sometimes seem to forget his own misfortunes, to draw us into something more gay and cheerful, enquiring into the customs and manners of the countries I had seen. When I had satisfied his curiosity, he observed every nation had its peculiar vices. The Italians were revengeful and jealous ; the French insincere and faithless ; the Spaniards and Portuguese superstitious, cruel, and proud ; and he must say, ingratitude was too common in this nation, as we were too apt to forget the benefits we had received so entirely, as to let ill temper, or a small omission, cancel past obligations ; of this he could give many instances, especially in those who suffered an implacable resentment to make them obdurate

obdurate to any remonstrance their injured friends could make.

We found Rustick Hall a stately old building, situate on a rising ground, that commanded a very fine prospect: the venerable oaks seemed designed by nature to shade it from the sun's too piercing beams. We were received with great signs of hospitality by Mrs. Rustick, and her fair daughter, whose bloom was greatly heightened by the sight of so many strangers; but Lucinda, by her address, enabled Fanny to shake off that shame-faced fear that had seized her.

The conversation grew general till the arrival of Rustick, who cried, by Jupiter, I am glad to see you: fans ceremony, ladies, I must kiss you; and those gentlemen shall do the same by my mother and Fanny. Well, Trueman, I have made two of your family happy; I never saw such joy as your mother and sister expressed, when I told them you was under the protection of the charming Lucinda: and now, to confess the truth, I have not been a hunting, for I went in my chaise, on purpose to bring off what they thought might be most useful to you. While they were packing up your things, I walked into the garden, where

I met a gentleman, who asked me who I would speak with? I fancied it was your father; but pretending not to suspect him, I said with a careless air, I should have been glad to see Mr. Trueman; but as he was not at home, I begged he would let him know I came from his son, who was and should be protected by strangers, 'till he behaved like a parent, which I knew by his character he would soon do; for it was not to be imagined he would give up a deserving son for the poultry sum of five hundred pounds.

He told me, it was not the loss of the money only that vexed him, but the disobeying his commands that offended him, as he had assured him over and over, he never could forgive such an action: but, continued he, young men think fathers are obliged to pardon all their follies; however, I will tell him what you say. I then besought him to plead the cause of a repenting child, and I would call for his answer in a few days.

If I had been there, cried Fanny, I would have reminded him of the fault committed by our first parents, when they eat of the forbidden fruit. How then

then could he expect one of the sons of Adam could resist the artifices of a devil in the shape of a friend?

We all applauded the zeal she shewed to help the unfortunate. It is plain she has read the bible since I did, returned Rustick: but as I was going to say, I went to the house, where I found every thing ready; took leave of the ladies, who blessed us all a thousand times: so prynthee, boy, be merry; for I will not forsake my project, 'till I have re-instated thee in that old man's favour. Sure I saw some signs of pity in his face. There cannot be so perverse a creature in the world as my uncle.

Before we talk of his absurdities, said Lucinda, let us congratulate Trueman on the success of Rustick's negotiation. No words, answered Trueman, can express how sensible I am of the unheard-of favours I have received from this company. Mrs. Rustick declared, she did not think there was so much merit in doing as we would be done by; therefore, in pity to his mother, she begged he would accept of their good offices to cheer his drooping spirits. But pray do not suppose you are now contracting a debt too mighty for your future life to

pay. If these young people gain a friend that will kindly travel with them through this uncertain state, is it not purchasing a jewel of so high a price, that it will overpay them for any trouble they can meet with in your affairs? For my part, I am amazed how any parent can force a child into hardships they could shield them from. I shall never forget what hardships I suffered when Bobby was sent into banishment.

Trueman, in a transport of joy, cried out, sure I am now surrounded by the most worthy spirits of this sea-girt isle: these ladies and Lorenzo at first received this wretched fugitive; and, to compleat their favours, you, madam, and your son, are given to increase my debt of gratitude: nor does this bright fair one deny her pity to an unfortunate man.

I wish with all my heart, said the innocent Fanny, I could make your father as good-natured as my mother; but there are few such parents. Very true, said Rustick; for I am sure Semanthe has more merit than I can pretend to; and yet Lucinda knows my uncle treats her cruelly. And now, continued he, I must confess I am not so disinterested as you imagine,

imagine, for I expect to be obliged in my turn: therefore dismiss a servant to the Castle, to bring your letters hither, and then my mother will have time to ask a thousand questions about you and her nieces; besides Fanny would be quite discomposed, if she had not an opportunity to shew the long gallery, where all the blood of the Rusticks are ranged; in order to prove we are as antient, though not so numerous, a family as the Simples.

As we were viewing this old Gothic building, I observed Trueman was very attentive to every word and action of Fanny's, which did not surprise me; for though she was not so perfect a beauty as Lucinda, yet her unaffected behaviour, her artless giddiness, and the negligence of her dress, made her a charming girl.

The ladies having let Mrs. Rustick into the whole history of our lives, she wished me joy of being snatched from death to life and love: she then expressed great anger against her brother, and pitied Semanthe for not being allowed to marry so amiable a man as Cleanthes.

That uncle of mine makes so many people wretched, says Fanny, that I should be glad to hear he was dead. I

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always knew he was a brute, and now I am sure he is a fool. How can he think so pretty a young lady as Lucinda could love such an old frightful hedgehog as he ?

You are very violent, said the mother ; what would you say, if I was to fall in love with one of these gentlemen ? how could I help it ? there is not above forty years difference in our ages, and that my brother thinks a very trifling circumstance in the married state. The gravity of the mother ; the loud laughter of Fanny, and the constant good humour of the son, amused us, though it could not banish our fears for Cleanthes.

In one of our walks, Rustick laid a wager that his sister should beat either of us in a race down the walk we were in. Trueman begged he might enter the lists against this young Atalanta. He no sooner spoke the word, but away they flew. She out-stripped him for some time, when, O dire mischance ! down she fell with such a force, that Trueman in a fright took her in his arms to lift her off the ground, and told her he should curse the race, if she had hurt herself.

I am obliged to you, because if you had fallen, I should certainly have laughed ;

ed; but don't be frightened, for I will only rest a little, and then we will begin again, for I hate to be conquered. The mother interposed, begging him to lead off his vanquished foe, adding, indeed, Bobby, you make that girl so wild, that she will some time or other break her limbs, if not her neck : however, at our return we found her as full of spirits as ever ; for, to say the truth, it was impossible we should not sometimes forget our cares at Rustick Hall. I went a hunting with him ; but I confess the violent exercise was more fatiguing than diverting to me, which proved matter of great triumph to this hero of the chace.

C H A P.

C H A P. XV.

THE day Rustick called at True-man's I returned home without him. I found Lucinda reading a letter from Isabella, which she delivered into my hand, and then left me. The contents were as follows;

My dear Lucinda,

I Write this from my own apartment; where it has pleased our jailor to confine me and his daughter ever since Belmour and honest Rustick insulted him, as he calls it. Poor Semanthe sinks under her own apprehensions for the health of Cleanthes. But there is no conquering my courage and magnanimity; if there was, I should certainly think of ending my life by poison, sword, or dagger. If any thing can drive me to old Charon's boat, it will be that fool lord Simple; or that pest to all conversation, Tymon, with his odious proposals. Indeed, my dear, I could almost hate you for enjoying your liberty, while we of Wealthy Place are under the power of a fell enchanter; who, by his charms

charms and spells, has metamorphos'd my companion into so inactive a being, that she seems only to enjoy a sort of vegetative life, except when she is threatened with the addresses of lord Simple; then in a moment she acts the heroine; and with all the dignity of a tragedy-queen, declares her passion for Cleanthes, and her aversion for the other. This sets her father into such a rage, that he swears she only prefers your brother, because all his friends are enemies to him. That his sister had despised the advantageous offers he had made her; and to compleat all, Sprightly had deceived him, by drawing him into a foolish oath, never to force a disobedient, head-strong fool to give her hand to any body he approved. But he would take care Cleanthes should never enjoy his fortune, if she married him after his death. Here a dreadful quarrel ensued: you may be sure he said a thousand provoking things; and then left us so miserable, that we had thoughts of quitting our posts, like some of the heroes of old; but a letter from Sprightly assures us your brother is quite out of danger; which he would have told you and Semanthe, had he not been forbid to use his hand. However,

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ever, they will be here in a fortnight. O, Lucinda! I could make my letter a volume, should I pretend to tell you all our hopes and fears: come, then, and help us to build a few castles in the air, for I fear we have no foundation upon earth. I have three years to live in slavery; for this old tyrant will never let me make choice of a guardian for my person and fortune. We long to see you all; therefore you must make some condescensions, that may appease the wrath of sir Charles, lest you repent, when 'tis too late to save the life of Semanthe, and your faithful

BELL. WEALTHY.

O, my lord! how many different ideas did this letter recal into my mind! for tho' I longed to embrace my dear Cleanthes, yet I could not help dreading the consequence that must attend his return. A lover, you know, always magnifies his fears when his mistress is to be addressed by a saucy pretender, who, though he has neither sense or merit, yet by a tyranny not to be forgiven, he has made a slave of a very deserving daughter. How altered from what she was, when gay prosperity attended on her infant steps:

steps! but now, love, like a canker, preys upon her bloom, and steals the roses from her faded cheeks! nor can Cleanthes snatch her from destruction. But my Lucinda comes to sooth my soul to peace! Victorious maid! how shall we appease this angry man? or how relieve Semanthe? 'Tis true your brother comes; but will he not suspect we have neglected his affairs to indulge our present joys.

I fear we have been too hasty with that over-bearing man. My brother will certainly tax us with unkindness; therefore we must appease sir Charles, let the consequence be what it will; for I cannot bear my brother should suspect my friendship: nothing can suffice him, but your complying with his request. Must I then resign you to my hated rival? cursed thought! but, be it so. Grandeur, no doubt, assisted by your brother's happiness, will soon efface my image in your heart.

Sure you are composed of very combustible materials; when the least spark of fire sets you into a flame! In justice to myself, I ought to leave you to brood over the idle fears you have created. But as I am of a more steady nature, with-

without passion, I beg to know what one reason you have to suppose I am going to give up Lorenzo, for one you know I detest. For shame forbear these keen reproaches, lest I endeavour to esteem you less. A life of grandeur is not new to me; though one of contention would be very insupportable. But no more! I see repentance in your face! therefore to spare the pride of your vain-glorious sex, I will not drive you to condemn yourself. But let us go and consult the Rusticks and Mrs. Allgood.

We found them on a bench, viewing Fanny and Trueman playing at bowls: we left Fanny and her concealed lover; for he dared not make use of the many golden opportunities this rural maid continually gave him. Many schemes were proposed and rejected, when Mrs. Rustick said, to convince you how desirous I am to serve you, I will this moment give up my womanish pride and resentment, and write a very submissive letter to my brother, to beg he will permit me to attend Lucinda to his house. This will humour his vanity; for he would not for the world be thought to make the first condescension. No doubt he will agree to my proposal, and then I dare say,

say, that we shall manage it so, that you shall be in the same situation you was when Cleanthes left you ; this, perhaps, will be disagreeable to Lorenzo : but if I might advise, neither he nor Fanny should be of the party ; as I fear the jealousy of one, and the plain sincerity of the other might spoil our plot.

I have no notion of fearing one of my uncle's age and infirmities, cried Rustick, I am sure, I hate to face this old dragon as much as you fear to be excluded the company of Lucinda : and now as this affair is settled, let us go in quest of Trueman and Fanny. We found them very busy in a flower-garden : Rustick told him, his father and mother being abroad, he was conducted to an arbour, where he found his sister reading one of our poets. When I appeared, she seemed pleased, and looked so pretty, when in a little confusion with a modest blush painted in her cheeks, she returned me thanks for all the favours I had bestowed on her unhappy brother : adding, in the sweetest and gentlest manner, indeed, sir, you have mollified my father's anger against him to such a degree, that he now suffers us talk of him, and wishes to know the name of
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the good-natured youth, that took so much pains to plead the cause of his too faulty son, that he might return me thanks in a much better manner than she could pretend to.

I told her there was nothing in my power she might not command, for her own sake as well as her brother's. I then told her my name, and assured her you was as cheerful as could be expected, till a reconciliation was brought about, which I did not fear the next time I had the pleasure of waiting on her father. And now, I must confess, this was the first time that ever I regretted I had not taken Tymon's advice, as to the polishing my manners; for though I was alone with this charming girl, I could find no words to express my sentiments to her. Well, I do really believe your lovely sister will steal me from the chace, and reduce me to join this tribe of sighing lovers.

We railled him on the danger he was in of losing his liberty. I am sorry for it, cried Fanny, as I know he will grow dull and stupid. However, I rejoice to hear I shall have nothing to do with my uncle. But pray, Mr. True-man, do you stay, that your friend may have

have somebody to complain to; and I'll fetch Molly to keep me company, when you are tired of me; which I know will be the case; so be in no pain, for as soon as ever I percieve you are falling into one of your dumb fits, I will leave Lorenzo to complain to you, of cruel love, hard fate, and tormenting jealousy. And in return, I suppose you will beg leave to say, black ingratitude, with the loss of all your fortune by a father's severe decree, are ills not to be supported. This, however, I know, you will fit like a woman, whose name I have forgot, who Semanthe told me the god's turn'd into stone to deliver her from her misery, but, by the bye, I don't believe it.

I never can forgive myself, cried True-man, if I have been so stupid in your company. Not always, but you know you have sometimes looked at me for a long time together, without speaking one word, till I gave you a good slap on the shoulder, and that brought you to yourself again. —— But don't be affronted, and you shall go with me to tell Molly I shall want her to-morrow.

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They gone, Mrs. Rustick said, I am afraid you condemn me for the education of that girl. To avoid making her a heap of affectation, pride, and artifice, I have run into the other extream; as I found her of an open, honest nature, I have, with the greatest pleasure, let her declare her sentiments without disguise: but I now see a little caution would be quite necessary, to make her avoid a freedom that may create her enemies: therefore, dear ladies, help me to polish this precious jewel, that she may shine with a brighter lustre than at present.

I begged she might be left to her own natural disposition, which was so engaging, that I dare say, time and a little experience would lead her into the path she ought to pursue: therefore do not curb the growth of this tender plant, but let her luxuriant fancy wander through every scene that presents itself to her imagination.

Here a civil invitation to Lucinda and all the company, but Fanny and myself, piqued me greatly, but I said not a word, till Rustick told me it was like his manners, to leave me and his sister out of the party; for which reason,

reason, if it was not in hopes of being of some service to us, he would not go near him.

As the ladies were laying down some rules for their behaviour, Fanny and Trueman returned: the mother told her she had affronted her uncle so much, that he would not give her a dinner, which she should resent if she was not in hopes of serving her friends. What service would it be to Lucinda, to hear every word I say, turned into ridicule by that cross old man? Trueman, with some warmth, expressed great indignation against a man that could treat her with such ill-nature, that nothing but his age could protect him from the resentment of every man of humanity.

Though I do not love him, cried Fanny, I would have him die a natural death, so pray don't talk of murder, for it frights me out of my wits. All this time, Rustick appeared so thoughtful that I was convinced Harriot had conquered our young huntsman: for though he endeavoured to conceal his chagrin he could not recover his spirits, though Fanny raillied him in the liveliest manner.

C H A P. XVI.

DISCONTENTED with the situation I was in, I rose very early, and found my friend Rustick sitting in a pensive posture. After some conversation, I brought him to confess a passion he had never felt before. He seemed vexed at himself for such a weakness, as he called it : but I convinced him he had no reason to despair, for Mr. True-man would think him a very great match for his daughter : therefore he had nothing to do but to speak to the young lady, and if she gave leave, he might propose himself to her father, and I durst promise he would succeed.

He told me I was his best adviser, and that there was nothing he would not undergo to mak Lucinda mine. The ladies joining us, I must confess Lucinda's going to sir Charles made me wretched. She saw my uneasiness, and would have convinced me I was in the wrong ; but all arguments are vain, when passion governs reason : however, I bore up 'till the coach drove away. I then returned to my own apartment : all

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the cross accidents of my life presented themselves before me. I could not help thinking how the time was changed, since you and I, my lord, passed all our hours in pleasing schemes of uninterrupted joys; but now, gloomy care and discontent disturbed the sweet serenity that should attend a favoured lover's hopes: but when the mind is dejected, she sinks into a kind of despondency. This was my case. The obstinacy of sir Charles, joined to the uncommon esteem she had for her brother, were obstacles never to be conquered. How in a moment did I quit common sense, to summon every misfortune that could befall me? I supposed Alvaro was now under persecution for being a heretic, and no doubt it would be known I was one myself, which would ruin my fortune, and break my mother's heart, and then I should die in a strange land unlamented.

Trueman, whose soul was tender as the village swain, left his blooming Fanny, to sooth the woes that then depressed me. He insensibly led me into a better way of thinking, and then begged me to advise him how to conduct himself in his present situation. Honour, added he, forbids my making use of the precious

precious moments fortune throws in my way on purpose to enslave me. I cannot see this charming girl, free and artless as the tender lambs that graze on yonder plain, without losing my liberty.

I wish I could persuade you to fly, before she gains too great a power over you. Alas, it will soon be too late to recover your liberty. Believe me, the sweets of love seldom answer the anxious fears that haunt a lover's brain. Even I, though blessed with my Lucinda's smiles, yet this all-accomplished fair one cannot secure me from jealousy, that bane of every joy. Instead of meeting Cleanthes with the warm sentiments of a friend, I am perplexed with doubts, how I have acquitted myself in the absence of that generous man, whose exalted soul can only be conquered by the charms of Semanthe : here, like me, he sinks under the tyranny of the god of vain desires and fruitless wishes. I plainly see Rustick and you are falling into his snare. Your sister has subdued his stubborn heart, which may be of great service to you ; and yet I think it would be wrong in you to endeavour to engage Fanny, 'till your father receives you as his son. A good estate is the best re-condemnation

commendation to parents. 'Till that happens, I need not bid you be very assiduous to please her; and I fancy you will succeed, as she does not suspect you; if she did, her fears would make her fly from you. I know you are impatient to see her, and I am ready to attend you.

We soon saw her and Molly making hay in one of her brother's fields. Charmed with the little shepherdess, he begged I would observe her dress, and then tell him, if that straw hat, adorned with pink streamers, was not more becoming than all the laboured elegance of dress.

On seeing us, she threw down her rake, and told us, if we had settled every thing to our minds, they were ready for dinner. We were no sooner seated, but she commenced woman, and did the honours of her table in so obliging a manner, that her lover seemed delighted with her. But poor Molly looked so ashamed, that we could not get a word out of her, 'till I asked her if she had read Cassandra. I have seen it, replied she; but it treats of such great people, that I don't like it. Tell me something out of it, cried Fanny, for I love stories mightily.

The account I gave of the unhappy passion of Orondates and Statira pleased so well, that I found Fanny's opinion of me rose in proportion to the knowledge I had of my author: but Trueman soon robbed me of the fame I had obtained, by introducing a novel.

The girls were all attention, nor could I be indifferent to the undeserved distress of the lovely, innocent Clarissa. But the Fortunate Country Maid had such an effect upon Molly, that you would have thought she had seen her own fate in the story she had heard. And now finding they were set in for this sort of entertainment, I slipped away, and never saw them more 'till the evening, that the coach returned. I flew to take Lucinda's hand, which she gave me with a most bewitching smile, saying, well, sir, you see I am returned safe. Though I cannot present you with an olive branch, we have patched up a peace, or rather a truce: the prisoners are enlarged; Semanthe is overjoyed that my brother is coming home, and I suppose Bell is not displeased that she shall see Sprightly. Could we manage sir Charles, we should all be happy.

To say the truth, said Mrs. Rustick, all my hopes are centered in Cleanthes ; perhaps he may think of some way to convince him, how ridiculous a figure he makes as a lover : but a man grown old in obstinacy and pride, is an ungovernable creature. My heart akes for Semanthe ; she inherits all her mother's virtues : the same dignity of behaviour, and nobleness of soul, seems to animate her bosom ; and yet that excellent woman was forced from a lover, equal to her in all the accomplishments of body and mind. In the bloom of life, she was cruelly sacrificed to the capricious will of my peevish, uncomplying brother. I may justly say I shared her sorrows, though I could not relieve them. How many summers days and winters nights have I sate listening to her melancholy tale. I believe this was the cause of his aversion to me ; but that I did not consider, my whole attention being engaged to enable her to bear the ills she struggled with. But vain were all my endeavours, by degrees I saw an incurable malady had seized her. She insensibly wasted away 'till Semanthe was born ; then, with a more composed and cheerful countenance, she gave the little innocent into

my arms, and begged I would guard her from her father's overbearing temper : but above all, my dear and only friend, let no cruel usage force her to marry a man she cannot love.

My brother coming in, she told him with a low and faltering voice she forgave him all his ill usage had made her suffer ; that she would have made him happy if in her power ; but as she found it was not possible, she begged he would let me have the care of her daughter, as she was going to a place where everlasting joys would be the reward of a life of cares and misery : then reclining her head upon my bosom, she closed her lovely eyes, and sunk to everlasting rest. The dreadful scene never appears before me, but I pay the tribute of a tender tear to the dear departed shade. He seemed shocked at first, but he soon forgot her. In vain I have endeavoured to supply the place of a mother to the dear pledge of my much-loved friend. Far from indulging me with the care of the helpless infant, I seldom was permitted to see her ; but this last interview has convinced me she is not to be moved by her father's threats, to falsify her vows to Cleanthes ; and as to lord Simple's addresses, they gave

gave her no pain; for, madam, added she, be assured I cannot fear a man I despise so much, that if nothing else would deliver me from that hated alliance, I would this moment leave my father's house, though poverty and scorn were to be the companions of my flight; and as Lucinda and Lorenzo are wretched upon my account, when Cleanthes returns, they must be left at liberty to make each other happy; I cannot bear to see their exalted virtues depressed by my hard fate. No, I will wander a helpless fugitive in a foreign land, rather than bring destruction on two deserving lovers.

I said every thing in my power to convince her of my friendship, assuring her I never would leave her in the distressed condition she described: but, my dear child, added I, let me beg you, by the injured ghost of your much esteemed and honoured mother, moderate your passions, lest one rash act should fully all your future life. It is impossible, cried I; Semanthe never can redress my sufferings. Have I not given my word and honour never to marry Lucinda, 'till her brother has obtained Semanthe? besides, the thought of her wandering from place

to place, to hidē herſelf from an inhuman father, ſhocks me to ſuſh a degree, that I would not, even to gain Lueinda, fee her ſo wretched. What a monster of ingratitude muſt Cleanthes think me, if I could forget all the favours he has heaped upon me with a lauifh hand: nor would Lucinda take ſo worthless a creature to her arms. Therefore, dear madam, be auſſured I had rather be miſera-ble, than guilty of ſuſh a crime.

My words had ſuſh an effect on Lu- cinda, that I ſaw her eyes brimful of tears. Poor Fanny ſympathized in our woes; a ſolemn silence ensued, 'till Ruf- tick protested he could not ſupport the diſmal ideas we had raised in his mind.

What the devil, cried he, can ſir Charles be made of, that he delights in giving pain? was not the death of the moſt deſerving wife ſufficient to ſoſten his ſtony heart, but he muſt pursue Se- manthe and Isabella with the ſame im- placable reſentment? Bell confeſſed to me ſhe had loſt all her ſpirits; peace was a ſtranger to her breast, as ſhe could not ſuppoſe Semanthe would be able to ſuport the ſleepleſs nights and wretched days of painful ſervitude. Sometimes, indeed, added ſhe, her mounting foul ſeems

seems to soar above the disappointments of this world ; but then love for Cleanthes, and pity for his sister and Lorenzo, sinks her again into despair. These are the ills I have to bear for my friend ; nor are my own affairs in a much better situation. With what pleasure could we fly to your mother for protection ? how unlike her brother is that amiable woman ? but vain are all our endeavours, 'till destiny breaks the chain that now unites us to him. If these are the ills attending the joys of love, continued he, what must they suffer who meet with cold disdain ? Dear Trueman, fly the fatal shaft of Cupid ; for my part, I fear I am already in his power ; but I am determined not to live long in suspence. If I find no hopes of succeeding, I will fly the pit immediately, and pursue the chace, 'till I regain my freedom.

I told him, he talked like one that was only entangled, not caught : but as we must leave you to-morrow, pray let us know how you proceed.

I cannot part with you all, cried Rustick ; you must leave Trueman with me, without you intend I should die of melancholy. We consented, to the great joy of Fanny, who dreaded being left

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alone with her brother, as she said he would do nothing but persecute her with the numberless graces that adorn Miss Trueman's person.

I saw Trueman looked discontented ; I asked, if any new disaster had befallen him ? No, sir, answered he, but I am distressed lest you and Lucinda should think me ungrateful to my first benefactors ; but on the other hand, the joy of being with Fanny made him passive in the affair. Therefore pray be so good as to tell me your thoughts freely.

I advised him to stay, and, by every laudable method, endeavour to make Rustick his friend ; as to me, I dare say time will strengthen my good opinion of you. The ladies called us to cards, but we soon found we were not disengaged enough to know what we were about. Mrs. Rustick seemed quite overwhelmed with the misfortunes her brother had brought on his own and Cleanthes's family, which Fanny observing, she was so earnest with us to stay 'till her mother had recovered her usual serenity of temper, that we could not deny her request.

How weak am I, said Mrs. Rustick, to pry into future events ? who can tell by what unforeseen ways Providence may direct

direct and guide you through these intricate paths, in which I see you involved ? I think my dear Fanny is the only one that is free from perturbation of mind.

Fanny declared she was not so happy as we thought her, for she really believed, next to being in love one's self, the keeping company with those that were so, affected one's spirits. What a set of wretched people are here ; and how can you suppose I don't pity them ? but brother, added she, do go and see Harriot to-morrow, while these ladies are here to keep my mother company.

I don't know what to do, replied he ; but I wish Lorenzo would go with me. You may command me, said I ; but say, my friend, what part must I act ? would you have me encounter the old gentleman, while you engage the young lady ?

No, no, I can manage the father well enough ; I want you to offer her a till now unconquered heart, that will never say more than he thinks, nor promise more than he will perform. As to fortune, I am very indifferent about it ; but pray assure her, I will not suffer a bond against her brother to give her one moment's pain. Forgive my directing you what to say, skilled in all the gentle arts

to plead a lover's cause. I am by nature rough ; my voice is harsh ; therefore I would put it in her power to refuse my suit, without shocking her delicacy.

When we arrived at Thrifty Place, Rustick introduced me to the lady, as the first protector of her son. With great politeness she acknowledged the obligations Lucinda and I had laid her under ; she then let us know Mr. Trueman was confined to his bed by a fit of the gout.

When they left us, we went into the garden ; I found the young lady modest, sensible, and discreet, with a becoming diffidence that heightened her charms ; and though perhaps the connoisseur might not allow her an absolute beauty, the delicacy of her person was very engaging.

I entertained her at first with every thing relating to her brother ; nay, I trusted her with his passion for Fanny, adding, you, madam, have it in your power to make him happy, as her brother will deny nothing to a lady, on whose smiles depends his future fate. Unpractised in the falsehood of our sex, his honest heart commissioned me to lay his fortune at your feet ; and he bid me assure you, if your father refuses to set his

his son free from his present misfortunes, he would take care you should not feel one pang on his account.

The many favours we have received from that gentleman demand my thanks; but this last generous offer to my brother is so noble a proof of his sentiments, that he may be assured of my esteem; and that is all I have in my power to grant, 'till I know my father's mind.

A servant coming with a very civil message from his master, I followed him, and found Rustick and he in a very warm debate. The first compliments over, he told me the great character my friend had given me, made him willing to refer his cause to me. Do you think I ought to forgive this indiscreet boy, before I have made him suffer for his folly?

You do me great honour, and I dare say I need not remind you, that mercy is the darling attribute of heaven; nor can I conceive how an unforgiving temper can expect to meet with pardon from above. Take then this worthy youth under your protection, and let it not be said a son of yours depends upon another's bounty, but generously forgive him, nor ever more upbraid him with a fault that almost sinks him into despair.

Come

Come, ladies, do you intreat for a beloved son and brother.

Sir, you have conquered ; my boy shall no longer be banished from his relations ; for as to friends, I think Lucinda and you two gentlemen are to be placed in the foremost rank.

This I thought a good opportunity to move Rustick's suit, so I begged to speak to him in private, and immediately found myself alone with him. I then, with all the rhetoric I was master of, displayed all the virtues of Rustick in the light they justly deserved. I then told him it was in his power to overpay him for any trouble he might have taken in his son's affairs, by permitting him to make his addresses to Miss Harriot, as she was the only lady that could make him happy.

With joy I would embrace him as my son, but I fear my dear Harriot's fortune is not equal to his estate ; not but this best of children, the joy and comfort of my declining age, shall carry a father's blessing to the man that takes this treasure from my hand. I must now send for the best of women, who, from the day I married her, made her will submit to mine ; and in return, except in

the case of my son, I never agree to any thing 'till I have consulted her.

Mrs. Trueman, with pleasure sparkling in her eyes, came in. I withdrew, and found Rustick greatly distressed for want of words to move his suit to the lady. I told him I had succeeded ; nothing could bar his pretensions but her being engaged. He begged she would disclose his fate, for if some favourite youth had taken possession of her heart, he had nothing to say : but if she allowed him to hope, he might, perhaps, in time convince her he deserved her love ; for, madam, continued he, though I am not eloquent in words, nor graced with smooth and well-turned periods, I can boast an honest, faithful heart, that never owned the power of beauty, 'till I saw the charming Miss Trueman.

The blushing maid assured him his open artless manner of treating her, obliged her to confess she was entirely free to obey her father's commands. The mother then led us to Mr. Trueman, who taking Rustick's hand, said, Harriot, I think my rash behaviour to your brother has proved fortunate for you, as it enables me to present this gentleman

to

to you for the friend and companion of your life; may you prove as good a wife as your mother.

The young lady cast her eyes upon the ground. Rustick astonished at his success, stood gazing on her with a silent rhetoric, more expressive of his tender sentiments, than all the speeches of a more artful lover. Soon after, he recovered his spirits in such a manner, that he declared his passion to Harriot in the warmest transports; telling her father and mother, if their daughter would admit his addresses, she would compleat his felicity. The young lady, with a conscious smile, bowed her assent. It was then agreed the son should be received with as much tenderness as if he had never offended. Every-body looked pleased: we took leave. My over-joyed companion was so delighted with me, for bringing his affairs just to the point he had wished, that there was no end of his acknowledgements. When we got home, he embraced Trueman, called him brother, and then related all that had passed! The good fortune of Trueman was received with great satisfaction by all the company. After he had returned us thanks in the genteelst manner, Rustick grew

grew cheerful, and his mother seemed mightily pleased with the character I gave of Harriot.

The first joy over, the Rusticks were amazed to see Trueman look dejected; but as Lucinda and I knew there was no time to be lost, we contrived to give him an opportunity of declaring his passion to Fanny; but how to use it he could not imagine; till the giddy girl put it in his power to begin a conversation, by asking him, what made him look so grave? that, for her part, she believed he was sorry her brother was to marry his sister. He assured her, an alliance with her family, was what he desired above all other blessings. Then what is the matter with you, that you are fallen into one of your dumb fits? Dear Miss Fanny, can't you suppose I am in love? Sure, that is impossible: what must I always be plagued with a sighing tribe of lovers? But, after all, if that is the case, tell me, who has had the power to captivate you? for I love to be trusted: but I don't believe you are in love! or, if you are, what need that make you so miserable? if she has rejected you, think no more of her. There lies my difficulty; I dare not speak to the

the cruel author of my pain. I have no notion of that, as I have always heard love is involuntary. Then why should she be angry? Is it possible you should not think there may be a person on whom my happiness depends, and yet I may not have the courage to acquaint her with my passion? Suppose I had this moment the fair author of my pain before me, might I not fear she would blast my hopes with a denial? then think what I must I suffer. As to sufferings and all that, I don't think about them: then in a little pet, she would have left me; but I seized her hand, begging she would consider what a state of uncertainty I was in. Let me go; for I don't love miserable people; you know I love to be cheerful; really, you appear to me as grave and stupid as if you was in a prison. I seem what I am; but then my gaoler is so pretty, and so innocently wild, that I cannot wish to be free; nay, I am so far from coveting it, that I glory in my chain. If you like your situation, why do you complain? Because the tyrant I adore will not let me plead my cause: and I have but one day before I must leave her, ignorant of my passion. Had she but half
the

the tender sentiments of my sister, she would not let me be the wretch I am. If I was as wise as Lucinda, or my cousins of Wealthy-place, I should manage this affair without discovering I know what you mean; but, as I love plain dealing, I will tell you, I do not dislike you; though, I assure you, I am not a bit in love with you. However, if my mother and brother approve your pretensions, I will patiently hear what you have to urge, that can make me take off your chains to wear them myself. But, pray, say no more, for I must go and make tea. Trueman drew me out of the company, to tell me how happy Fanny had made him. Elated with his good success, he seemed to have forgot all former misfortunes.

C H A P. XVII.

THE next day we took leave of this worthy family. We were no sooner alone, than I observed Rustick had recovered his spirits, and Trueman had cast away every fear. They think they fail before the wind; and yet, a sudden storm may destroy their well-grounded hopes. Why will you fix your eyes upon the worst that can happen, replied Lucinda? or why raise one of your storms to destroy the peace of these lovers? Let them give way to the pleasing ideas they now entertain of their future happiness: 'tis the interest of each family to join in desiring this double alliance. Therefore I beg you will not bring evils upon them, that may add to your own gloomy imagination: they have no sir Charles to disturb their schemes.

On our arrival at the castle, we found Lovemore impatient to see us, as he knew letters from Rome would give us great pleasure: I tore open the seal, and soon found my mother was ignorant of the change in my religion; and that lord

Easy

Easy had said so many fine things of Lucinda's beauty and merit, that she thought it was only my love to that lady, which determined me to settle in this country; of which Alvaro had given her such an account, that she had sold one of my estates to her brother, resolved to share our fortunes in that land of strangers: Alvaro's letter was to the same effect; only he shewed great impatience to know my state of mind; adding, lord Easy's character of Lucinda had fixed my mother's resolution.

I had much a-do to suppress a rising jealousy, when I heard how lavish lord Easy was in the praise of Lucinda's beauty. However, I hid this frailty in my nature, though I believe, when we are sincere, either in love or friendship, 'tis impossible to be quite free from what the generality of your cold unmeaning people, call this weakness in the mind. I was diverted from these thoughts by Lovemore's giving a small box to Lucinda, faying he was ordered by Alvaro, to deliver it into her own hand, with a thousand blessings, for the tender care she employed to save a son as dear to his mother, as even life itself. That she hoped, when the hour arrived that

that gave her to Lorenzo, she would not despise that small present, but let it in some shape or other adorn the lovely bride.

Delighted with these kind expressions, from the mother of the man she had favoured with her smiles, she opened the box, where she found many diamonds and other gems of great value. She said so many obliging things upon the occasion, that I felt a joy not to be expressed. Lovemore, to confirm her good opinion of this dear and honoured parent, gave her Alvaro's letter. I saw her so touched with the uncommon grief she had suffered for the danger I had been in, that she said, O, Mr. Lovemore! are you not delighted with this best of women? Could I have been such a brute, as to leave him in the miserable condition I found him, would not Providence have sent some superior being to restore a darling son to the fond arms of an indulgent mother? and yet, tho' his life has been so wonderfully preserved, I cannot bring him to bear his disappointments patiently. Would you believe, since I saw you, he has accused me of a horrid conspiracy against him, in which I had villainously resolved to deliver

siver up my person and fortune into the hands of his mortal foe, sir Charles.

I am ashamed of my behaviour, answered I, but still, I cannot divest myself of a thousand fears that daily alarm me. I am ready to condemn myself, and to wish I could attain that mediocrity so necessary to make a prudent friend and lover.

To own we have been in the wrong, said Lovemore, is one of the most essential marks of our good sense. Those only are incorrigible, who never allow they have been in an error. Therefore, madam, be assured, time and experience will moderate that warmth of temper you complain of: for though I confess it sometimes brings persons into many inconveniences, yet I have always found a generosity, in the way of thinking of such that sets them above all malice and revenge, whereas a man of an obstinate, dark turn of mind, will appear cool and deliberate, though, at the same time, he harbours the most implacable resentment against his long-tried friends, if they differ from him in opinion.

Of this, I will give you an instance in Wilfull, whose father dying when he was a child, and leaving his family in distressed

trezzed circumstances, the eldest son, who was a lad of parts, I took under my protection, but I soon found he had something so over-bearing in him, that he was often disagreeable to his companions. This I vainly thought I could get the better of, by persuading him to submit, in his turn, to the different humours of those he conversed with. But, alas! as years encreased, I only brought him to hide his nature. I loved him tenderly, and he continued to live with me till he was turned of two and twenty; when a relation of his died and left him an easy fortune. He immediately removed to his own estate, where he threw off all restraint, and became an universal monitor to all that came in his way. Small blemishes in his opinion were sufficient to cancel a thousand virtues.

In vain I remonstrated to him we ought not to pretend to reform others till we had in some measure gained a victory over ourselves. He told me as he had shook off all prejudice of education, he should take the liberty to behave as he pleased. That he thought he had an undoubted right to tell people of their follies, in order to their amendment. That as he was free from pride

pride and vanity himself, he would not bear such faults in those he conversed with.

I asked him if he did not think it possible for a man to mistake the motives of his own actions; and, if so, I begged he would examine his own heart, lest spleen and ill-nature should be at the bottom of all this severity. He gave me no answer, but left me a little abruptly. You cannot imagine how much I was grieved at his behaviour, or what unwearyed pains I took to regain him; but all to no purpose; the few favours I had done him were forgot; a coldness ensued; and by degrees, he treated me with scorn and contempt. I took no notice of it for some time, till at last, hearing he turned me into ridicule, I desisted from all farther endeavours to be reconciled to him. In this unaccountable manner I lost a beloved friend, which has occasioned me many uneasy hours; but he has used me ill, and he never will forgive me for seeing it. He does not consider, that we may all find so many defects in ourselves, that it is amazing to me how any one can be extream, to mark what is done amiss by others.

But

But this is an unpleasing theme: therefore let us banish all gloomy apprehensions, and trust that your better genius will lead you to the wished-for goal.

As we found he was greatly effected with the unkindness of Wilfull, we changed the discourse, and gave him an account of the families we had been engaged in. He was mightily pleased with the honest hearts of Mrs. Rustick and her son; the artless simplicity of Fanny; the modesty of Harriot; and her brother's repentance touched him so, that he rejoiced at the reconciliation between the father and the son: but true virtue, continued he, is ever soft and gentle. He then told us he was glad we had undeceived him in regard to the Rusticks, as he had heard Fanny was a wild underbred girl, fit only to converse with her savage brother.

That comes from Wilfull, answered I, his vanity is mortified, and his pride too much hurt, by the plain denial of that agreeable young creature.

We are apt to complain of each other, cried Lovemore, though we never condemn ourselves. I dare say, he does not suspect prejudice leads him into errors, that nullies many good and worthy principles.

ciples. For my sake, think favourable of him, as I have a tenderness for him, that even his ill usage cannot destroy. And now give me leave to enquire after sir Charles and the poor injured Semanthe.

Alas ! replied I, when we are under the apprehension of any misfortune, we think every thing will happen according to the pictures we have painted in our imagination. The inhuman sir Charles is not to be moved: Neither prayers nor tears can soften his stony heart. I fear Cleanthes will only return to new cares, and, what is worse to me, he must view me as one of the causes of sir Charles's hatered to him.

Is it possible, Lucinda, cried Lovemore, that even your beauty should blow up so strong a flame in the frozen bosom of age, that nothing can extinguish it?

'Tis the perverseness of his nature, replied she, that I really believe determines him to pursue me; for I never can think a soul like his can be capable of either love or friendship. I fear my brother's rhetoric, were it equal to that of the famed Roman orator, would have no effect on that stubborn heart of his.

My forboding fears seem to tell me there are many ills concealed in fate's eternal volume that now stand ready to disclose the fatal secret.

Why, said Lovemore, is pity all I can bestow? But don't despair, Providence is over all its works. The just and merciful author of this world never forsakes the good and virtuous part of his creatures; let that thought enable you to raise your minds above the craft of base and insolent mankind. 'Tis certain, my lord, there is not so sovereign a medicine for an afflicted mind, as the advice of a friend that is wise and just in all his notions. For as to philosophy, that constantly forsakes us when any of the softer passions assault the soul: but love is constantly the author of its own misery: then think of my situation. The humanity of this family to me was the source of all their troubles. Had not fortune thrown me in the way of Lucinda, she might have been free from all attachments. Lovers at a distance have not the same chance to succeed, as one who has it in his power to disclose his passion in a thousand shapes. On my first seeing her, I could not speak her language; she was my preceptor, and soon

soon taught me to discribe the pain I suffered. By degrees she owned her love: but my happiness was of a short duration. Sure mine is an uncommon case! few men declined so far in life ever pretended to gain a blooming beauty of a large fortune; and yet my cruel fate has conjured up a demon in the shape of sir Charles to torment me with his ill-timed passion.

These considerations made me so thoughtful, that neither my dear Lucinda's prudence, nor Lovemore's precepts could raise me above the dreadful ills I struggled with. As they were one day endeavouring to inspire me with hopes of better prospects, we heard the shouts of a mixed multitude. We issued out of the castle, to learn the cause: at last, we saw a chariot and six coming towards us, surrounded by great numbers of people, who, to our great joy, cried, God bless the brave Cleanthes, who fought so valiantly in defence of his country! Welcome, Cleanthes! the father of the poor, and the friend of all mankind.

As he drew nigh, we flew to meet him; but our joy was soon over; he looked greatly fatigued; the vivacity that used to sparkle in his eyes, was obscured!

glow of health that adorned his person, gave way to a languid paleness; and, to add to our fears, his right arm was in a sling; which shocked us so, that we stood staring at him without the power to stir. He perceiving our distress, broke through the crowd, and, in his inimitable manner, received us with such a warmth of friendship, that poor Lucinda burst into tears. He begged us not to look so dismayed; for though a late fever had robbed him of some of his health and spirits, he did not doubt his recovery, now he was in the midst of his friends.

When they had entertained the people with great quantities of wine and strong beer, Sprightly asked us how we could think of welcoming home two heroes, who had fought the nation's battles, with tears and lamentations, when, on the contrary, they expected Lucinda and I would have given them an account of the love and constancy of Isabella and Semanthe?

By degrees we told them all that had passed in their absence, Sprightly said many pleasant things upon Rustick's behaviour to his uncle: was glad to hear of the success of our lovers; but seem-

ed

ed greatly distressed for Isabella, who he vowed to deliver from slavery, if she would follow his advice.

Cleanthes, in great disorder of mind, said, sure I am fallen indeed if that titled fool, Simple, is preferred before me! can that wretch be thought a proper companion for a lady of Semanthe's exalted merit? and yet 'tis not in my power to prevent the ills she suffers. The fatal oath that has passed her lips, destroys my hopes! What then is to be done? Good heaven! why was I born to be the ruin of those I love? Had I fallen bravely, defending my county, I had now been laid in honour's bed; nor would my partial friends have failed to deck my tomb with never-fading laurels. Delivered over to silence and rest, my sister and Lorenzo had been happy; and my dear Semanthe would have suffered time insensibly to steal my image from her heart. But, alas! while I remain in this state, 'tis impossible to break those ties that were fastened by love and friendship.

My dear Cleanthes, replied Lovemore, do not let your mind be depressed by so mean a genius as sir Charles. Consider you have been one of those glorious

chiefs that defended our laws and liberty. Were you not miraculously preserved amidst the horrors of a cruel war? Can you forget, when overborn by numbers, you lay an easy prey to death, had not your guardian angel that moment snatched you from the impending danger; healed every wound, and brought you safe to your paternal seat; where, surrounded by friends and blessed with fortune's choicest gifts, you may, with pleasure, recal all the past actions of your life secure, that neither guilt or ingratitude have had power to blast your honest fame, you ought to rejoice when you see sweet peace now spread her ample wings to guard the nation from every danger of uncertain war.

But don't mistake my meaning, I do not expect a man of your age should be free from passions: yours is a laudable one; and claims your utmost endeavours to gain so rich a prize. All your friends are ready to assist you. And as to Lorenzo and Lucinda, I am sure they could taste no happiness if you was wretched! think what you make us suffer, when we see you the blank of what you was when an easy freedom adorned your person, and contemplation improved your mind!

mind! Act up to your own understanding; restore Cleanthes to himself, to me, his sister, and Semanthe.

I protest, cried Sprightly, Cleanthes has cast such a gloom over Lorenzo and his sister, that they look as if the sentence of eternal separation was to be pronounced against them.

I think, said Cleanthes, the weakness of my body renders me unable to exert the nobler faculties of my mind, or I should not have distressed them with my fears, blind as I am to future events. To see myself once more with those I love, cannot fail to raise my languid spirits: The sight of Semanthe will reanimate my breast, and we may all be happy.

We assured him our grief arose from the disappointment we suffer in finding Belmour had deceived us, by not letting us know the true state of his health.

He was not in fault; for on his return from you, he found me extreamly ill in a fever. I insisted upon his not giving you the pain of knowing my danger; he complied with my request, as he did with every thing I desired: nay, he even prevented my wants and wishes; to his care I owe more than

ever I can repay. With soft compassion he watched every turn in my temper, till finding me quite out of danger, he painted the behaviour of Semanthe in such lively colours, that I thought myself happy, till he told me the quarrel he had with sir Charles. He saw me struck at what he had said; my affairs appeared to me in a desperate situation. I knew he would not bear to be found fault with, as he always defends what he has done. He saw thro' the disguise I endeavoured to conceal, and grew angry, that I should think it a fault to speak his mind upon such an occasion. I told him I loved plain dealing as well as he; but still I thought prudence was essential to the management of those we have to deal with: that sir Charles was grown old in a low pevish pride, that set him above contradiction; therefore, I wish he had been more cautious. I will never disturb your councils more; nor will I ever see the face of that absurd old fellow, till I hear you are married to Semanthe.

I soon found some new passion engrossed all his attention: his fiery imagination again ran away with him. By degrees I brought him to confess the widow

widow Flutter's charms had quite effaced the image of his false Italian. He knew she was a coquet, and he feared fickle; but he did not expect to meet with a lady, all perfection, like my sister and Semanthe: nay, he did not desire it, lest she should despise him for his faults; whereas he thought the gaiety and carelessness of her temper, would induce her to bear with him, that he might return the compliment to her in his turn.

'Tis an odd scheme to hear you talk of marrying, purely to forgive and be forgiven! I would have you consider, marriage is for life; you cannot obtain your freedom till death divides the chain that bound you to each other.

I never search into futurity; the present now engrosses all my attention; 'tis not in my power to command future events; therefore I must introduce you to see my widow. I complied, and he left me; but on his return, I found she had not received him as he expected. The devil is in her, cried he, 'tis plain she has not scratched my eyes out; but she looked cursed cold, and told me, the charms of freedom were not to be easily parted with; but when she had talked to Cleanthes, she would tell me

her resolves. He seemed so wretched that I begged he would let me into the story of her life.

He told me, she was daughter to a gentleman of so small a fortune, that he was forced to sacrifice this lady to old Flutter, who was thought immensely rich; but at his death, he left her slenderly provided for; and yet she demurred whether she should accept his proposals or not.

After sometime, he left this affair to my management. She received me very politely; conscious of her fine form, she seemed to demand my attention. There was something artful in all her actions; if I happened to meet her eyes, she cast hers down with a design to gain admiration. I soon found she did not exert to be entertained with the passion of an absent lover: but finding she could make nothing of me, she condescended to talk like a reasonable creature; and I soon convinced her, prudence and good sense obliged her to reward a man that adored her.

Were I sure his violent temper would wear off as soon as his adoration, there might be something in your arguments; but as I have been in the trammels before,

fore, you cannot blame me for endeavouring to find out the temper of a man, who may hereafter command me. In fine, after many doublings and turnings, I plainly saw she liked him so well, that a few days before I set out, I persuaded her to give her hand to the now happy Belmour. This is the most memorable adventure I have been engaged in since I left my room. But you must now give me leave to retire, that I may recruit the fatigue of my journey. Saying this, he left us, and Sprightly enquired into every particular of Isabella's behaviour.

We told him all she had said to Rustick. Is it possible, cried he, can the gay Isabella lose her life and spirit? then I am sure our affairs are desperate! Cleanthes will never be able to support the loss of Semanthe, nor I my Isabella! We will not sit tamely down and see those lovely creatures depressed by pinning, discontent, and melancholy. We shall certainly be forbid the sight of them, as I find he suspects me. Speak then my friends, shall I face this old dragon, who so cruelly guards these helpless victims, or trust to some more favourable opportunity?

After

After great consideration, 'twas at last agreed, he should go to Wealthy-place without Cleanthes, as that might gain him a more favourable reception. This settled, we parted, each of us struggling with the insurmountable difficulties that obstructed all our future schemes of happiness.

C H A P.

C H A P. XVIII.

ON my coming down next morning, I found Sprightly displaying all his eloquence to convince Cleanthes he had better suffer him to make the first visit to sir Charles without him. With great difficulty, he, at last, consented, after giving him a thousand charges not to neglect his interest in the lovely Semanthe. Sprightly assuring him he would certainly paint his sufferings in the most lively colours, he then left us the most dejected mortals you ever beheld. Hopes and fears by turns prevailed, till we were roused by the gay Clitander; his person is handsome, his air noble, his address so easy, that the man of birth and fortune appeared in all his words and actions: he had in him all the vivacity of a Frenchman, with such a volubility of tongue, that I must confess his well-chosen words amazed me; and, at the same time, convinced me his lively genius was too apt to get the better of his judgment: For by his account, there are in this island but two sorts of men, fellows beneath his

his notice, or else those whose soaring imagination carries them above mortality; men of life and fire, whose active spirits cannot be damped by the cold mediocrity of your dull, stupid authors, who value themselves upon what they call right reason and truth; ill-natured critics, who laid down rules to fetter those who dare attempt to wander in the flowery road of Parnassus, or enter the temple of Fame: therefore said every thing in their power to deter others from forcing their way into the sacred dome.

Cleanthes endeavoured to convince him, that a humane man with an honest heart, might be a worthy member of society, though he was not possessed of Clitander's brillancy.

I allow he may administer to the distresses of the poor and indigent, and so may the man of genius. A fine understanding is not incompatible with the greatest sensibility of soul. But as I do not want their assistance, you must give me leave to despise them. You should rather pity them: cannot you suppose a man may have sense and judgment, without being eloquent? Oratory is not a common gift: do you not think there are many of our senators who have

have adorned their minds with all the learning of the atients ; and yet from innate modesty sit silent, to hear a pert young fellow harangue the house with his flimsy arguments, delivered with an impetuosity of temper, that only serves to deceive those who dwell upon the surface of things ?

Wit and fancy are pleasing talents in the eyes of all men ; but if we were all statesmen, orators, or poets, there would be nothing but confusion in the world. The various characters we meet with, make an agreeable variety : every body of common sense meets with a share of admiration from those they converse with. Thus we are all kept in good-humour with ourselves, and a proportionable share of vanity is dispersed to each individual of the human species ; or else, one half of the world would be in dispair, while the other, with a tyrannic power, would despise poor common sense. Therefore let us conclude we are all placed in a light proper for us to shine in, if passion or prejudice does not force us out of the path where Nature first placed us.

I should be convinced you are in the right, could you confine these insipid creatures

creatures to the path you have assigned them; but far from keeping within bounds, they pretend to ascend the lofty regions that ought to be sacred to men of genius, wit, and taste. To these enormous liberties are owing all the motley crowd of authors, who, without abilities, to acquire fame, write, meerly for bread. Is not that the best reason that can be assigned for their invading the province of learned men, whose motives for writing are but too often a sort of wanton vanity, which they cannot suppress, till they acquaint the world with their extraordinary talents, by finding fault with those that lived before them? But how often are they disappointed of the great share of fame they expected to reap from their labours? Some regular plodding critic may point out the faults of the more sprightly geniuses: besides, you don't consider, some of these low authors look upon the child of their brain with the eyes of a paternal fondness, and, perhaps, think it equal to a Homer or a Virgil, which does not surprise me in the least. We are all blind to our own faults, though we are very severe judges to those of others. We never fail to view our own perfections in the flattering

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ing glass that fancy sets before us. Our pride makes us very ready to depress those who move in a sphere beneath us. Gold is the idol of this world, that shining mischief gilds and varnishes all the words and actions of the wealthy fool.

I deny that assertion, for I should despise the rich, trifling, absurd, lord Simple, and his foolish sister, if they were possessed of all the Indian mines. I hate Tymon's ill-nature, and I look down with the greatest contempt upon sir Charles Wealthy, for endeavouring to sacrifice his charming daughter to that titled ideot: and if fame says true, that old dotard has dared to entertain your sister with his presumptuous passion! and, if so, in spite of all you can urge for benevolence and universal charity, I must beg leave to detest him. What, has he never a mirror, to shew him the progress old father time has made, in stealing from him every attractive grace; leaving nothing to adorn the weather-beaten trunk, but the perfections of his lovely daughter?

Sir, replied Lovemore, his insolence to Lucinda, and his barbarous treatment of Semanthe, are faults hardly to be pardoned; but still, let us mix some pity

ty for the man, though we despise his faults. I was forced to muster up all my philosophy to conquer my pride, for that is the source from whence most of our dislikes proceed. Let our station or understandings be ever so mean, we cannot bear to be reproached with what is not in our power to avoid. Your birth and fortune will secure you from the insolence of the great; which I must confess, I think a more insupportable evil than poverty itself: your good sense will soon convince you we are not formed for perfect beings. Our passions are sometimes too strong to be governed by reason; 'tis then self-love steps in to shew us how greatly superior we are in all the accomplishments of body and mind to those we converse with. Prosperity is a dangerous companion, because she is commonly attended by vanity. Let us beware of her false arguments, or she will varnish our own faults, and, at the same time, represent those of others in so bad a light, that we cease to treat them with compassion.

I will endeavour to follow your advice, said Clitander, but I really fear I have so strong an antipathy to those who take pains to acquire follies, nature never designed

designed them, that I cannot help despising them. As for example, would lord Simple guard his delicate person from all the inclemencies of the wind and weather, without persecuting me with his nerves, cholic, and low spirits, I could see the creature with common civility; but, as Shakespeare says, I had rather hear a kitten cry, mew, than be plagued with such skimble scramble stuff.

The secret history of our affairs proved such a theme for him to expatiate upon, that he helped us to wear away the tedious hours till Sprightly's return, which happened soon after he left us.

Knowing our impatience, he said, indeed I have had much a do to keep my temper; for sir Charles received me in the most insolent manner, crying out, Mr. Sprightly, you have deceived me, by drawing me into a foolish oath, not to dispose of my daughter till Lucinda has given her hand to another. But I shall soon break through this idle promise, if, as I suspect, she has given her hand to that foreigner. Till she convinces me to the contrary, I beg Cleanthes and you will desist from any farther pretensions

sions to my neice and daughter, for I am determined to dispose of them more to my own satisfaction.

With some warmth I told him, if any other man upon earth had taxed me with drawing him into wrong measures, I should have resented it in another manner. I begged him to consider Lucinda was a free-born independant being, consequently at liberty to dispose of herself as she pleased : that I could not apprehend with what justice he determined to render Cleanthes and Semanthe miserable, because Lucinda would not agree to lead her life with a person she could not love : that for my part, though I professed myself a lover of the charming Isabella, if she preferred any other admirer, I would immediately desist from any farther pretensions.

Your behaviour is no rule for me, I am too old to learn of boys and girls how to conduct my affairs. The friends of Cleanthes have used me ill, and I never will forgive them. Lord Simple will suffer me to govern him as well as myself. He is not puffed up with notions of his own understanding, but will depend upon my age and experience ; besides,

sides, he will ennoble my family, and that is no despicable consideration.

What honour can you derive from a man who can never make a figure in his country? What must become of the nation, if such public-spirited men as Cleanthes had not ventured their lives to save such reptiles as he from destruction? Let not the hero lose his great reward, in seeing the adored Semanthe torn from his arms, to be given to that weather-cock of a fellow, who enjoys but a sort of vegetative life.

He has the better chance of carrying his limbs with him to the grave, which I am told your hero will not; for the future I fancy his courage will be no great support to this island.

I wish you could find a champion equal to him in skill and courage, to prove his pretensions to your daughter is founded in honour and truth; and as to title, his military conduct is so well known, that I dare say he might easily obtain that favour from his majesty.

I am not so much delighted with the first lord of his family, that I should alter my purpose, especially as I am secure of one derived from the antient nobility of the Norman blood.

After

After the wretch had tried my patience to the utmost, he consented to send for the ladies; but then he forbid all secret treaties, as nothing but Lucinda could make us happy. Here they come without my summons. O! they are always ready to contradict my will; right woman smiles in their faces, while they are plotting mischief in their hearts: but time and patience may bring my schemes to perfection.

When they had welcomed me home, Semanthe enquired into your state of health. I assured her you was so well, that if sir Charles would give leave, Lucinda and you would wait on them tomorrow.

O dear sir, cried the bewitching Isabella, let them come, for I never saw a wounded hero in my life; but then I beg that foreign gentleman may stay at home, as he always puts my uncle out of humour.

I never desire to see him again, cried sir Charles, so let me have no more of your wit. If Lucinda's resolves are not to my mind, I shall, I believe, set out for the German Spaw, and that I suppose will delight you, as all your sex loves gadding abroad.

If

AND SEMANTHE. 191

If my lord is to be of the party, replied Isabella, we must certainly have some little machine made so close, that the winds of heaven may not visit his face too roughly; for if he should take cold, we must have Letty and Timon to nurse him; and it would be a sad thing to lose three such companions.

It is impossible to bear that provoking tongue, cried sir Charles; I must retire to recover my temper.

When he was gone, so, said the charmer, that is just what I wanted; and now, Mr. Sprightly, I do assure you I am extremely glad to see you returned safe, for I have a very great regard for you, though it does not amount to love. So pray don't be full of your speeches, but tell this wretched friend of mine, how Cleanthes despairs and dies at the thought of lord Simple's running away with his sweetheart.

There is no describing what he endures from grief, rage, and love; but to a lady of your happy disposition, the anxious hopes and fears that fill an absent lover's mind, appear but vain and trifling.

It is a melancholy consideration, I must confess; but don't let him despair, for I

have a plot in my head, that may deliver us out of the paws of the lion and the bear, for some time at least. I see my uncle has composed his mind, so I will now run close for fear of a storm. She met him with a smile, and told him, we had been chiding her for vexing him, when she was only joking with him. So wild a girl ought to be taught how to behave to a person whose age and dignity set him above the little fallies of wit and fancy. If I had not been a fool, said the lovely Isabella, I should have kept my wit to myself; nobody but Clitander has any taste for raillery.

Her last words struck me; I could not imagine what she meant by complaining of me to her uncle; besides, she had named a formidable rival. I could not help fearing the great vivacity of that gentleman might make some impression on the heart of Isabella.

Sir Charles triumphed, telling me he believed I might have an opportunity to practise my refined notions of love, by being convinced there was no fixing the heart of woman; that his daughter was constant out of perverseness and contradiction to his will, or else the pride of being a woman of quality, had reconciled

ciled her long ago to any defects she might see in his person or behaviour.

Sir, replied the much-injured Semanthe, you are so used to treat me like an irrational creature, that I am not surprised you should think virtue and honour have no charms for me. But here I solemnly protest, I should esteem myself unworthy the regard of all persons of distinguished merit, if I suffered splendid trifles to engross my attention. No, I never will give my hand to a man I can neither love nor esteem. Lucinda's resolves will have no effect upon me; her making herself happy, if in her power, is no sort of reason for me to deliver up myself to a pompous slavery, which I detest. Secure in my strictly observing the oath I have taken, you may suffer me to see Cleanthes, as I am not at liberty to return his generous passion: but then, sir, think me not undutiful, if I remind you that there is something due from a parent to a child. You threaten me with disgrace and poverty, if I do not marry lord Simple; but, sir, my own innocence will secure me from the first, and the latter appears far less dreadful to me, than a life of hypocrisy

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and deceit, which must be my case, should I obey your commands.

Sir Charles said so many shocking things to Semanthe, that she seemed terrified. Isabella looked frightened, and I had much ado to command my temper ; at last, he fell into a fit of the fullens. Tired to death of his absurdities, I left him. It is impossible to describe the conflicting passions that laboured in the breast of Cleanthes ; love, pity, and tenderness at first possessed him ; but these soft and delicate ideas gave way to rage, despair, and revenge : when starting as out of a dream, he cried, revenge is out of my power ; sir Charles is the father of Semanthe ; lord Simple is a noted coward, unworthy the sword of a man of honour ! What plot can Isabella invent to hinder their journey to Spaw, as he must know my sister and Lorenzo are engaged to each other ? nor can I act any longer against the laws of friendship ; therefore, Mr. Lovemore, you shall join dear Lucinda to her deserving lover.

We assured him we would not embarrass his affairs ; that our happiness could not be compleat, without he was to partake our felicities, which was impossible, as it must debar him the sight

of

of Semanthe; adding, I thought ingratitude a crime no generous nature could be guilty of. I also desired they would not deem me unworthy of Lucinda's love, and her brother's friendship; which I must certainly be, if I did not share their disappointments with the same warmth of affection that I felt when I partook their pleasures.

Cleanthes embracing me, said, here let the generous conflict end; your virtuous sentiments will at last crown all your wishes with success.

Lovemore observed, if we let prudence and patience govern our actions, they will enable us to wind ourselves out of every difficulty; but it is now late, I must leave you to pursue your different schemes; may success attend your steps. As to you, Mr. Sprightly, by all I can learn, the gay Isabella will at last confess a passion she now endeavours to hide.

Sprightly, by sometimes railing us, and at other times soothing our hopes, artfully led us into a more composed way of thinking, when, to our great surprise, Mrs. Allgood declared she could not support living amongst a set of love sick young people, who were all made miser-

able by the follies of a man who had reaped no advantage from age and experience. That as they were now launching out into a world she had been long tired of, she was determined to go and spend some time with her cousin Worthy. This she hoped they would agree to, as she could not be of the least service to them; if she could, they knew her affection for them would make her struggle through any difficulties that could be the least advantage to them.

In vain they endeavoured to alter her resolution; she determined to set out in the morning, that she might not see them return from Wealthy Place in so wretched a way, that it would almost break her heart. Lucinda used every argument in her power to keep this faithful guide, who had led her infant steps into the paths of honour and virtue. Though the other was moved at what she said, yet she was steady to her first resolution; which Cleanthes observing, he brought his sister to give her consent.

C H A P. XIX.

ON our coming down, we found Mrs. Allgood had set out before the time appointed, leaving word she could not take leave of Cleanthes and her dear Lucinda. Upon this, the tender maid burst into tears; I seized her hand, and begged her not to afflict herself. Alas! Lorenzo, how can you suppose I can bear the loss of such a friend, without feeling great perturbation of mind; especially when I consider myself the innocent cause of all the misfortunes I see so many deserving people exposed to; nor do I know how to see that hated man, sir Charles! My soul detests hypocrisy. Then how can I disguise my real sentiments for you; and my aversion to every thing he can say in favour of his own designs? I fear I shall not have resolution enough to keep on the mask; and, if so, what dreadful ills may ensue?

I took the weeping fair in my arms, and begged her to recal those maxims she had so often encouraged me to pursue; that her brother would guard

her from any insult she might fear from the pride and ill-nature of sir Charles; that I felt every distress that assaulted the heart of my Lucinda, who I wished to defend from all the ills of life. But fate denies that blessing to Lorenzo!

Sprightly's approach threw Lucinda into such a confusion, that he told her he was amazed to see a woman of her sense so discomposed at granting so small a favour to a lover, who deserved her tenderest sentiments; as she was above the little trifling follies of her sex, she ought not to let false shame rob Lorenzo of the pleasure of finding himself preferred to so many admirers, that, in vain, sighed for the charming Lucinda.

You see me the most distressed man upon earth, answered I, Lucinda's tears destroy all the fortitude I am master of. I cannot let her go to sir Charles without me, and yet I know my presence will enrage him. Sprightly told what had passed with so much humour, that we could not help owning we were in the wrong, for painting dangers stronger than they were. When they left me I retired to a bench in the park, where I had

I had not been long before Rustick and Trueman rode towards me, full speed; I advanced to meet them: Rustick caught me in his arms, and swore I was his best friend; that his Harriot was an angel; he was happy, and so was Fanny and Trueman! Every thing went on just as he could wish. The girls were good-humoured; they were constant; no jealous fears interposed to mar their future prospects: for to tell you the truth, added he, if she was to play tricks with me, I believe I should break my chain. But, I must now leave you to my fellow-traveller.

Then Trueman, with his usual good-manners and modesty, pressed my hand, enquiring after my health, the ladies, and Cleanthes's, whose return gave him great pleasure, as he knew our affairs in some measure depended upon his proceedings with sir Charles. The great obligations he had to me and Lucinda, made him impatient to know the state of our affairs, which he should rejoice to find as happy as his own.

'Tis impossible for me ever to attain the civility of that young fellow, cried Rustick; for though I came with a full design to welcome home Cleanthes, the

sight of the author of my present felicities banished every other consideration from my thoughts; not but I am heartily glad he is returned.—But what the devil will you do with my uncle? I find him as obstinate as ever. But, perhaps, by his good sense and address he may engage him to alter his mind.

I told him there was no possibility of convincing a man he was in the wrong, who would not hear reason; wedded to his own notions, every one that opposes his present humour becomes hateful to him. Our affairs are in a desperate situation, as you will confess when I assure you he was yesterday determined either to marry his daughter to lord Simple, or else set out immediately for the German Spaw.

He may be mistaken, replied Rustick, if Bell's plot and mine succeeds: I pressed him so earnestly to let me into their designs, that he consented, and told me they had laid a train which could not be compleated till Tymon was removed out of their way; which must be soon, as my lord's indolence had suffered his steward to oppress his tenants, and ruin his estate.

But

But to give you a regular account of our proceedings; soon after you left us, I went to my uncle, in order to ask his consent to our double alliance with the Trueman family. He shewed great impatience while I was painting the charms and graces that adorned my Harriot's mind and body: nor did I forget to do justice to the virtues of her brother, who, I said, could not fail to make my sister happy. To this he replied, with great fierceness, that he was not surprised to find I had refused a woman of quality, to throw myself away upon the daughter of a person, who, by a low, painful industry, in the mercantile way, had obtained a fortune, which enabled him to educate his children above their birth, which could not fail to catch such a mean-spirited young man as I was. As for Fanny, he always thought her a disgrace to his family; as she had no more breeding than one of my hounds. That he would have nothing to do with the Truemans. Therefore, if I thought proper to unite myself to that plebian stock, he commanded me to quit his house for ever. But to let me see he had still some regard for my welfare, if I would desist from my

pursuit, he would use all his endeavours to make my peace with Miss Simple, which would lead Fanny into a set of company, that, perhaps, in time, might enlarge her ideas, if not, he did not care what became of her.

By this time I was in so violent a passion, that I told him I despised his advice and ill-nature, as much as I honoured the Truemans; whose virtues set them above all the foolish lords and knights in the kingdom: men who too often have nothing to boast of, but a long race of scoundrels, who pillaged their country, and robbed the fatherless and widow, to purchase an estate large enough to obtain a title which I despised! therefore I was ready that moment to renounce all kindred with him, though I should ever esteem his neice and daughter as they deserved. But as to the Simples, I viewed them as the most despicable part of the human species. That I never knew the meanest country girl I would not prefer to Letty Simple; therefore, to reward her want of merit, I would advise him to marry her himself: she would, no doubt, make a tolerable nurse, as she was used to all sorts of druggs, and cordials, and nonsense.

sense. But, truly, you must please your fancy, though you make a fine young lady miserable, by your ill-contrived addresses: for, at your time of life, it cannot be a noble generous passion; such as mine to my Harriot. For shame, give up your pretensions, and leave Lucinda free to reward a deserving lover. But your whole delight is in tormenting those who have the misfortune to depend upon you, or you would not refuse Cleanthes for your son. His superior merit is the only objection you can make: you must have one more suited to your taste; though you doom your only child to drag a wretched life. But as Fanny and I do not depend upon you, 'tis in our power to make ourselves happy; therefore your consent to our marrying is of no consequence. In fine, my fury was so worked up, that he looked frightened; and, I really believe, he was struck with a panic, that made him look upon me as a ruffian that would shake his old bones out of his skin: so that with more composure than I expected, he told me I was a head-strong, rash boy; and he would go and send Bell to convince me I was in the

the wrong; as he had no interest in my affairs, but, that he wished to see me in a prosperous situation.

Soon after, Bell. came to me, crying, what have you done to my uncle? he bounced into my room, threw himself upon the bed, and looked as if he had seen his father's ghost! Semanthe held a bottle to his nose, while I forced some drops down his throat, which recovered him enough to beg me, in a low and faltering voice, to take care you did not come where he was; for he believed you had a design to murther him, had he not got away just as he did. Indeed, continued he, I think he is mad, so pray be gentle with him, and get him out of my house as soon as you can: and then I will take care he shall never enter my doors again—a puppy! What is his paltry marriage to me? I dare say, they are very well suited to each other's low conception of family and fortune. I should not have told you this, but that I find you are in one of your lucid intervals; so pray tell me what lady has had power to fix your inconstant heart; as also, what you have done to sir Charles?

O! Bell, that man would have provoked Job! He treated the Truemans and Fanny, as if they were not worthy to appear in his presence. But, as you know Harriot and her brother, I need not tell you their merit entitles them to a better alliance than mine. For when I consider my own defects, I can hardly flatter myself I shall obtain a young creature that is adorned with so many nameless graces, that 'twas impossible not to lay myself and fortune at her feet.

I then informed her of every particular relating to the Truemans. She was quite charmed with his and your behaviour, commending us all for conducting the artless, innocent Fanny, to so safe a harbour: and, now, Rustick, continued she, let me beg you to moderate your temper, which will throw a lustre upon all the good qualities you possess. Harriot is gentle, mild, and patient: the first passion she sees you in will terrify her; but I fancy I am giving you a needless caution; for when we love we endeavour to please; and now, as I shall not be allowed to converse with you, advise me how to support the deplorable situation we are in. I have the mortification

cation to see Semanthe droop like some fine flower nipt by an untimely frost. Can you suspend your own joys for a moment, to hear an imperfect scheme that I cannot carry on without your assistance?

I told her I would be their protector; my fortune should defend them, and my house should be at their service.

These are favours out of our power to accept; I want you to help me to break off this odious marriage with Simple: as also to prevent our detested journey to Spaw, which must be our fate when he knows Lucinda is engaged to Lorenzo, without you can get Dr. Aimwell to be of our party; he manages the whole family. Letty does not suffer her brother to eat a morsel of milk-pottage without his advice. By their recommendation he is become a great favourite with sir Charles: 'tis he that persuades him to try these foreign waters. Tymon is at the bottom of all their designs: his envy and hatred to Cleanthes makes him wish for nothing more than to wean Semanthe from thinking of him. Tymon is going a long journey; you must engage Aimwell to assist us, which, I think, may be done,

done, as he has a great deal of pride, and but a small fortune to support the way he lives in; therefore, we must make it worth his while to enter into our schemes, to prevent this ill-concerted alliance, which we may certainly do, by telling Letty, if she values her brother's life, she must persuade him not to marry till his health is better established: for that my lord's delicate constitution would never be able to bear a great crowd of visitors, as they must, of course, sink his spirits and disorder his nerves in so dreadful a manner, that he feared it would end fatally. That nothing but the great regard he had for the family, could have forced him to discover so melancholy a truth, which he begged her not to divulge to Tymon, or any body else. Letty you know is foolish; he will certainly succeed, especially, as you may bribe as high as you please, which we will repay, with great joy, when in our power. I have said nothing to Semanthe, lest some sinister accident should destroy our endeavours to serve her.

I could not help laughing at the gravity of Bell's face, when she talked of my lord's nerves and the fatigues of a married state; she seemed displeased,

ed, and a grave debate ensued. I promised no money should be wanting to compleat her project; but I feared she had forgot their journey to Spaw. She told me, she would raise such a quarrel among them, that sir Charles's pride being piqued, he should drop the affair; and old Tymon should curse his evil stars that forced him to quit the field to some secret enemy, who had put such notions into my lord's head, that all the wise men in the nation could not remove his terrors, or make him enter into a state that might endanger his life. Farewell, I dare stay no longer! What shall I say to sir Charles? Tell him I am going to Trueman's, where I shall not have leisure to think of so wayward a thing as himself.

Ruminating upon what she had said, it struck into my head, that as Fanny had a cold, I might make it a pretence to send for the doctor; but then, the little jade was so full of life and spirits, that I was forced to tell her she would oblige me for ever, if she could feign herself sick for the small time the doctor would stay with her. My mother, who I had trusted with the secret, insisted upon her complying with my request.

Very

Very well, cried Fanny, if I must, I must: but pray take notice, Mr. Rustick I never heard any thing so foolish in all my life, I assure you: I will not touch any of his filthy medicines. I don't desire you should; but pray look grave, or I shall take it very ill.

She acted her part so extremely well, that he looked as if the girl had been really sick. I begged he would dine with me the next day; as we had some apprehensions of an intermitting fever. That we could soon cure, replied this son of Esculapius; but pray, sir, how long has miss had this ugly cough? it must be removed, or it may fall upon her lungs, and that might prove a dangerous affair. However, he hoped by great care, and a few gentle remedies, he should restore her to a perfect state of health. I told him, as I relied upon his judgment, I should trust her to his care. Company put an end to our conversation: and I must say I was quite impatient to hear how he had succeeded with the doctor. As soon as they left us, I begged him to proceed, that I might know what hopes there was of relieving us out of our present distress.

C H A P.

C H A P. XX.

THE Doctor represented Fanny much worse than we apprehended, hinting it was well we sent for him in time. This news reaching Thrifty Hall, young Trueman made us a visit, asking hastily how Miss Rustick did? She told him she was very well, though I had taken great pains to persuade her she was ill, by sending for a doctor, who viewed her as if he had been going to draw her picture; and now the odious creature had sent her a great many draughts and powders, which she supposed he would have made her swallow, if he had not come to take her part.

Dear Miss Rustick, cried the lover, I never was so agreeably disappointed in my life. It is impossible for you to imagine how many dreadful ideas I had formed in my journey hither. I don't know what you endured, replied Fanny, though I believe I can guess, by what I should have suffered had I thought you in danger. Pray ask him why he treated me in so ridiculous a manner? Trueman, who had still some fears

fears, begged me very gravely to tell him if I apprehended any bad consequences from my sister's cold. My mother assured him it was only a frolick of mine, therefore he might be quite easy on that account.

The next day I saw Harriot ride into the court-yard : I received her with transport, and my mother and Fanny told her this friendly visit gave them great pleasure. The amiable Harriot expressed great satisfaction in finding the report of my sister's illness groundless ; but I plainly saw her brother was not satisfied with my evasive answers to his several questions. Convinced his friendly foul would rejoice to be of any service to this family, I trusted him with the secret : he entered into the plot, and wished for nothing more than to help me to gain this physician to our interest.

To carry on this farce, continued he, we must persuade my sister to dine in Miss Fanny's apartment ; but we found great difficulty in bringing them to consent, without I would give them a reason for so strange a request. I told them I was not at liberty to tell them the true state of the case, if I was, they would rejoice in assisting the unfortunate.

Harriot

Harriot with a steady countenance said, she supposed it was a mark of my wisdom not to trust a woman with a secret; therefore, Miss Rustick, we will not press him, for fear he should tax us with an impertinent curiosity.

No, no, says the other, let us be passive; and as for the first time in my life, I must learn to act a part nature did not teach me, perhaps I may represent the dumb character, when they would chuse I should be my former self. Come, let us retire to my dressing-room, before we are ordered to quit the company.

Confess the truth, Trueman, continued he, was you not frighted at Fanny's resentment? I own I was, said the other; but thanks to your careless way, you managed so well, that if you will believe me, sir, added he, with all the unconcern in the world he told them, he had rather sit there than in any room in the house. Mr. Rustick laughed, his sister seemed in a pet, and Harriot did not know how to behave upon the occasion; and, to speak the truth, he gave her no time to think, but taking her hand, he hurried her up stairs. We followed them, when, in a way peculiar to himself, he brought every body into good humour,

humour, till a servant came to tell him the doctor was below.

He flew to meet him, crying as he went, now Fanny to your post; upon which she went into her chamber, where, lolling in an easy chair, she received him with a dejected air. He asked how she had slept; whether she found any pain in her head, stomach, or side; and what sort of appetite she had? She replied in a low voice, she hated all sorts of food; that she was so ill and low-spirited, that it was painful to her to speak. Soon after he left her, and came to us: I asked how he found the young lady? A nervous disorder, answered he; I fear it will be a work of time, as I find she is threatened with hysterics. I am extremely sorry to hear it, cried Rustick, as she may in time come to be as wretched as lord Simple. Sure he can have no complaints, answered I, when he is to marry so fine a young creature as Semanthe. Sir, replied he with the most philosophical face I ever saw, you are ignorant of his case; the whole system of his nerves are disordered, his blood is sluggish, and does not circulate freely in his veins, which causes that indolence and lowness of spirits he complains of. He had the misfortune

misfortune to fall into the hands of ignorant practitioners ; had I had the care of him when he was of this young lady's age, I believe I may, without vanity, affirm, he would now have been as healthy as either of you gentlemen. I knew he was mistaken, said Rustick, however I wished he had been so fortunate, as I feared Semanthe would be a nurse for life, which was a most wretched situation. He told me, according to his ideas of happiness, that lady was more to be envied than pitied for marrying my lord, as she would be entitled to share both his estate and title.

Here Trueman retired, and I told him he amazed me ; could a man of his age and sense suppose riches and honours were the only requisites to sweeten the cares of a married state ? As sir Charles assures me he will not give his daughter a fortune, without she lets him chuse for her, I think it would be prudent in her to obey his commands. As I am a child of fortune myself, I am too well acquainted with the thousand plagues that attend the man that must always be contriving to manage a pitiful income to the best advantage. Therefore suppose she does not love my lord, is not one evil

evil much more supportable than an infinite number of cares and fears, which you men of fortune can have no notion of? If this be your way of thinking, why don't you, as you are a clever young fellow, endeavour to gain some woman who is entirely at her own disposal? Because I cannot afford to fee servants, give treats, and appear what I am not. A servant in livery, two good horses, handsome lodgings, and a variety of apparel, are absolutely necessary, before I can set out for the land of matrimony.

Faith, doctor, you are a pretty lad, and I should be very glad to find an opportunity to serve you: I give you my word, you may this moment suppose yourself mounted upon a clever nag, with a servant behind you, and a hundred pieces in your pocket, to spend as occasion requires. Now as this is the case, tell me, do you know any lady whose heart you would attack? nay, don't pause, nor fear to trust me, for I am in earnest; and as you will not confess, I'll tell you, it is Letty Simple. I have suspected she liked you some time, but I suppose you are afraid of old Timon; but courage, he will soon be out of your way,

way, and you cannot fear that milk-sop of a lord. Ha! boy, I tell you it will do. Come, give me your hand, and depend upon me for any necessary supplies that may be wanting.

The poor man looked so astonished, that he stood silent for some time, and then told me, he had some reason to think Miss Simple did not dislike him : but sir, continued he, as I have had my way to make in the world, I have been forced to act a part my soul detests. To you I will pull off the mask ; what I have given your sister will do her no harm. I take the same method with lord Simple, to whom nature has denied every accomplishment both of body and mind ; so that I have often wondered at the folly of sir Charles forcing his daughter to sacrifice herself to such a wretch. You see I speak freely to you, therefore I beg to know whether you have not some design upon Semanthe yourself ; for if you have, in spight of Timon's malice, I will venture my life to break off the match. I hope you do not think I deceive you, for I should be a monster of ingratitude, if I did not obey all your commands with the punctuality of a faithful slave.

I assured

I assured him I never trafficked in slaves ; but if I could gain him for my friend, I should think my money well laid out : but to convince him his confidence was not ill-placed, I would confess, that though I was not in love with Semanthe, my regard for her was so sincere, that now he let me see there was a possibility of freeing her from her present distress, if by his management he could convince my lord and his sister that a single life was more conducive to his health, he would certainly deserve our most grateful acknowledgements.

Dinner put an end to our conversation, and my doctor appeared another creature. All the formality of his profession was thrown off, and he became a cheerful companion : but as I was impatient to see Harriot, I left Trueman to do the honours of my table. I found her very civil and well bred, which forced me to make some awkward speeches ; then turning to Fanny, I said, what is the matter, child ? has the doctor persuaded you to be really ill ? if so, I will call him up. She told me, I might save myself that trouble, for she would not speak to him if I did. Since it is so painful to you to oblige me, cried I, for the future I

shall endeavour to manage my affairs without you. I am only sorry this lady, who is never out of humour herself, should see how much better she behaves to her brother than you do to me.

Sir, said the lovely Harriot, my brother would not have confined me to my room, without giving me some reason for so extraordinary a behaviour.

I own I was at a loss what to say, which my mother observing, said, my dear children, you have carried your resentment too far already : he is not at liberty to behave as you could wish ; do not dive into a secret which concerns neither of you : come then, my Harriot, let me give you to my son, as a reward for his filial piety. She then brought her in one hand, and Fanny in the other ; I embraced them all, a peace was concluded, I returned to my company, and performed my promise to the doctor, he assuring me he would make it the business of his life to serve me.

A few days after I met him at Trueman's ; he told me Timon set out very early that morning, which had disturbed my lord so much, that he fancied himself extremely ill, which gave him an opportunity to hint a thousand fears to

Miss

Miss Letty, who started as if she had waked out of a trance; crying out, Doctor, you terrify me; I cannot bear my brother should endanger his life. If you have any friendship for me, advise me how to conduct this affair. He assured her he would do every thing in his power to extricate her out of her present distress. That they must, if possible, convince him a married state would be destructive to his health, if not his life. Upon this she fell into hysterics, which proved lucky to his designs; for he shewed so great a tenderness for her welfare, that she expressed her thanks in the most obliging manner. And indeed, Sir, continued he, there is something so gentle and good-natured in that young lady, that were she not possessed of so large a fortune, I should think her very deserving.

I wished him success, and begged he would depend upon me for any supplies that might be wanted to complete our grand design. If you can break off this match with Semanthe, you will in time become first minister to my lord; and then, my boy, you shall marry Letty; and so you may become the manager of his great estate.

And now, Lorenzo, what think you of our plot? I approve it so well, that I wish you would be my guests to-night, that you might inform Cleanthes of all you have told me; as I know it will give him infinite pleasure. They agreed; which gave Trueman time to tell me his father had kept his word so punctually, that though he knew he had paid the money, he had never once mentioned it him; that he was so fond of his dear Fanny, and her deserving brother, that he often said my being introduced to the Rusticks was the most fortunate event that could have happened to his family.

It has proved as lucky an incident for us said Rustick; but we are all indebted to Lorenzo for our present happy situation. Therefore as I insisted upon his telling Isabella's secrets to Cleanthes, he would comply. But he begged we might first hear how they had been treated by sir Charles.

While my two lovers were pleasing themselves with their future prospects, Cleanthes returned; and I plainly saw discontent sat lowering in the faces of the two gentlemen. But alas! I cannot describe the grief that triumphed over the charms of Lucinda. As Cleanthes is always

always master of himself, he received his guests with great politeness ; telling Rustick he should ever think they were much obliged to him for defending his sister from the insults of his uncle. Trueman, continued he, 'tis with the greatest satisfaction I reflect on your considering me as a person ever ready to protect the unhappy. I rejoice to hear you are so effectually reconciled to your father, that I may wish you both joy of your conquests over youth and beauty. You have no angry parents to forbid the mutual bands which Hymen is preparing to complete your wishes. Self-interest forced me to fly to your hospitable mansion for protection : nor was I disappointed, though you was absent. To your sister and Lorenzo I owe every blessing I could ask of heaven. All the alloy I have to my present happiness, is the seeing you involved in so many insurmountable difficulties.

Perhaps, cried Rustick, it may never be in my power to serve Cleanthes ; but to convince him I revere his virtues, tho' I am a plain man, he will find I have an honest heart; therefore he may command me freely. Perceiving Cleanthes was buried in thought, I begged he would not be a niggard of his grief. Lucinda's
tears

tears too well-explained the story of our future woes. Say then, my friend, what new storm is now preparing to dash our youthful hopes, and drive our bark from reaching the desired port.

Alas! replied Cleanthes, when fate forbids us to attain our wishes, the smallest gale will serve to drive us from the long-desired haven. Nothing but my sister's sacrificing herself to all the misery that disparity of years and ill-nature can subject her to, could redeem his daughter from the loathed embraces of lord Simple: as you will be convinced when I tell you we found sir Charles and the ladies together. My dear Semanthe advanced to meet me; when, with fury flashing from his eyes, he seized one of her hands, and rudely forced her to the farthest part of the room. Pity, love, and anger, raised such conflicting passions in her breast, that, unable to support the rising storm, I saw her trembling limbs unable to sustain her fainting spirits. Swift as lightning I flew to catch the sinking fair. Clasped in my arms, she lay breathless and pale, as if that moment death had determined to steal her from the world. In vain her inhuman father would have forced her from me. With all the vehemence of an injured

injured lover, I solemnly swore, I would not quit the lovely maid, till I saw returning life reanimate her charming face. By the care of Isabella, she recovered her senses ; when lifting up her languid eyes, she gazed upon me, and said, Cleanthes, you look dismayed ; but do not suspect either my love or resolution. My cruel father, while you was gone, would have forced me to marry lord Simple : but now my fears are vanished. You are returned to mourn my hapless fate ; while thus in life's gay bloom I sink to rest within your faithful arms.

Terrified at her words, and much more at seeing her again bereaved of life and motion, in the bitter agonies of grief, I cried out, Thou lovely object of my tenderest wishes, should I be deprived of my Semanthe, no inhuman father shal divide us more. Near the sad monument that holds thy loved remains, there will I spend the miserable days that fate may grant : for O! I dare not quit my post, till summoned hence by the great Author of my being.

All this time sir Charles seemed shocked, till seeing his daughter restored to life, the brutish part of his nature returned ; and he said, Charming Lucinda, you see

the almost fatal effects of your cruelty : will you relent, and comply with my desires, before it is too late ? Sir, teturned I, 'tis in vain to hide a truth that has been too long disguised. The virtues of Lorenzo have prevailed. The faithful youth has gained her virgin heart. In vain you endeavour to bribe a maid, whose soul is not to be captivated by all the allurements of pride and grandeur. What is wealth, if it cannot purchase happiness ? For shame, give up your pretensions to my sister, as it is not in her power to return your passion.

'Tis very well, replied he, neither is it in mine to give up my just revenge ; for here I swear by heaven, my daughter never shall be yours. The day that gives your sister to Lorenzo, shall let Semanthe know I will be obeyed ; without she chuses to become an alien to my family, turned out to poverty and scorn, a wretched dependant on the generosity of a man she cannot marry without my consent. This I should suppose a prospect far less desirable, than being the wife of lord Simple. But if, out of a wilful disobedience, she continues to espouse the cause of my avowed enemies, I shall soon be enabled to banish her from my sight ; and then she will

will be fatally convinced, all her arts will have no effect upon me.

This is a melancholy picture of an unforgiving nature, cried Isabella; your daughter does not deserve such treatment from you: For though she knows the generosity of Cleanthes and his sister would make it their study to soften every pang she could endure, yet I know her spirit is too noble to live dependent on a mother's bounty: especially as such an action might give the censorious world an opportunity to blast her yet unfulfilled name. Can you divest yourself of humanity for a child, that only begs to avoid a man she despises, to live a single life, under your protection. Anger is a very bad counsellor: listen not to her false suggestions, nor blame Semanthe for giving her heart to one you must approve, when you consider the uncommon merit of Cleanthes.

I will not give a reason for any of my actions: my will shall be my law: therefore hold your tongue; lest you involve yourself in the same misfortunes. How dare you think me so mean spirited, as to let my fortune descend to a family that thwarts all my designs?

Inraged to the last degree, I insisted on being heard with patience ; and I would soon convince him, his lovely daughter was all I asked. That I would with joy resign up all my pretensions to his fortune. Semanthe was a treasure I prised above the wealth of Persia's proudest monarchs.

I am not much acquainted with foreign princes, cried the brute ; but I should have liked a son to inherit my estate ; but since you refuse to give me your sister, know, proud youth, no child of yours shall ever be inriched by me.

Generous Cleanthes, returned my dear Semanthe, cease your intreaties ; nor hope to move a heart that is deaf to nature's call. Before he drives me from his sight for ever, I once more solemnly protest, no fear of poverty shall ever force me to falsifie my vows to Cleanthes. What tho' I see the gathering storm now ready to burst over my devoted head, that cannot deter me from begging Lucinda will give her hand to Lorenzo. Blest in each other, may their days glide on in a series of uninterrupted joys ; except sometimes soft pity for a wretched fugitive should intervene, to move you to compassionate the poor distressed Semanthe,

the, who now must learn to bend her haughty soul beneath the pride and folly of the rich and great.

No, said Lucinda, I am not so lost to all the sacred laws of friendship, that I should render my brother and you so miserable: for know I disdain all selfish views; nor will I release sir Charles from his oath, by giving myself to Lorenzo. Therefore, Sir, added she, let me intreat you not to punish the innocent Semanthe for my fault.

Madam, replied he, you now plead in vain; when my resentment is raised, no power on earth can move me to forgive. 'Tis in vain to urge me to break a resolution, that gives me infinite pleasure, as it will interrupt the triumphs of you all; but more especially my hated rival: for depend upon it, the day Lorenzo calls you his, I will give my daughter to lord Simple, without she resolves to bear the heaviest curse an injured parent can inflict upon a disobedient child.

Do you suppose I will bear the idle whims of a perverse girl, who fancies herself in love with Cleanthes, because I disapprove his pretensions? Nor do I see any one reason why lord Simple should not make her as good a husband as the

L 6 other.

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other. Every body knows, to young men matrimony is a never-failing cure for love ; and though Cleanthes would lay out all the treasure of Persia's kings to purchase this precious jewel ; yet in a few years he would consider her as a domestic animal, fit for nothing but to manage his house, and sit at the head of his table : for as she brought no fortune, he might not think her of consequence enough to educate his children ; or suppose he did, would they not blame their father's imprudence, for taking a beggar to his arms ? For shame, Semanthe, dry your tears, and behave like a woman of spirit ; and then you shall find me an indulgent father. But if you continue to contradict me, I will not harbour a snake in my bosom. Bell is my brother's daughter ; if she marries to please me, I will prove a parent to her, instead of an uncle.

That is very kind, returned Isabella. But, dear Sir, remember Semanthe and I have been bred together from our tenderest infancy ; how then can I forsake the faithful partner of my joys and sorrows ? Dear as a sister, the loved maid has been my constant care. No peevish quarrels ever interposed to break a friendship,

ship, that can only be strengthened by time. Oh ! do not drive us from you, to wander in a world where youth and innocence will meet with few protectors.

In vain I used every argument that reason or prudence could urge to soothe his stormy soul to peace. He told me, the affront my sister and I had put upon him, he never would forgive. That so far from being moved at what I said, he declared, the kneeling world should plead in vain. No rhetoric of mine could convince him, self-denial was a duty all fathers should practise, when the passions of their children are to be gratified ; for that was a doctrine he despised.

You will easily imagine what we suffered, when, with a scornful look, he forced the depressed Semanthe, and her fair cousin, from our sight. But as they passed us, Isabella dropt a bit of paper, whererein was wrote with a pencil, " If fortune favours my designs, you need not despair." Death and fury, cried Sprightly, what remedy can she find out to bring the fierce, unrelenting soul of sir Charles to hear reason. By Jupiter, cried Rustick, that uncle of mine is of such an evil nature, that he will neither lead nor drive. But before I unravel

Bell's

Bell's designs, you must promise to follow her advice ; for I protest I cannot bear to see so many miserable faces.

He then informed them of all you have heard, in relation to Aimwell, and the Simples. Cleanthes embraced him, calling him the preserver of his life and love ; but added, Don't let us trespass upon your generosity ; my estate shall enable him to execute all his designs. How much am I indebted to Isabella, for her constant friendship to Semanthe ! She is a glorious girl, cried Sprightly : I shall certainly become an advocate for the fair sex ; nor will I fail, sword in hand, to prove they have as much courage and magnanimity in facing dangers as we have. With what a noble resolution did she resolve to share Semanthe's fate ! If she will make me happy in her consent, the holy priest shall join our hands ; and then, with honour, Mrs. Sprightly may guard the injured Semanthe from an ill-natured, censorious world. Could Bell leave my uncle, or marry before she is of age, without his consent, give me leave to assure you, I would be the guardian both of their fame and fortune.

How wretched am I, cried Cleanthes, that I can be of no service to my dear
Semanthe

Semanthe! With what pleasure would I this moment lay my fortune at her feet! But as I am not permitted to relieve that unhappy fair one, suffer me to see the doctor, that I may convince her, money is of no use to me; but as it may promote her happiness. Rustick told him, he could not comply with his request; his friend and he must fight under his banner, as great a novice as they thought him in the military art. Therefore he ordered them not leave the castle till he gave them leave; as their names must not be mentioned upon any consideration, lest some of lord Simple's party should discover their plot to sir Charles, who might in his rage put his cursed designs in execution. Come, chear up, brother-soldiers, and trust to my management. What think you? shall I, to shew my prowess, fright this noble lord into a fit of illness, by breaking his windows, at my return home from Trueman's, tomorrow night? I really believe it would have a very good effect. You all know he is mistrustful and timorous. He will certainly think his house is beset by some bloody-minded villains, as Tymon is not there to guard him. This will prove a golden opportunity for the doctor to prof-

fer

fer to stay with him, for fear of accidents ; and then, if he does not carry off Letty, I am mistaken in my man.

You have an enterprising head, said Lucinda ; but I am so depressed with the misfortunes of my brother and Semanthe, that for the first time in my life, I wish to look into the book of fate : and yet my doubting soul starts at the images my troubled fancy raises to perplex me.

Perhaps, replied Cleanthes, 'tis a kind of consolation to know the worst of things, and to what a degree a man may be unhappy : since doubts and fears render evils infinite to the imagination.

Such a situation is mine. 'Tis utterly impossible to take just measures, or form right conclusions, from a boundless and unlimitted set of Ideas, that float in my brain in such a manner, that they only serve to destroy my judgment : therefore to you, Rustick, I resign my will : resolving to pay an implicit obedience to all your commands. But, my friend, take care what you do, lest he should die of the fright.

No, hang him, said the other, I would not endanger his life ; but faith I must give him a nervous head-ach ; attended with a slow, lingering fever. Methinks I see

I see Letty running with half a dozen bottles of drops. Then comes his lordship's jackanapes of a valet, with cordials, and julips, and the devil knows what. Besides, as soon as their fright is over, they will send for the doctor, who I will apprise of the misfortune, before it happens, that he may put on a solemn countenance, to convince Letty and her brother, that the fatigues of a married state would certainly destroy him. This over, I'll send him to Wealthy Place to make his report of my lord's indisposition, with strict orders to put an end to the journey to the Spaw: as also to tell Bell the true state of the case. Thus we shall gain time to proceed to the grand affair; which you shall hear more of in a few days. So I wish you pleasing dreams; for 'tis late.

C H A P. XXI.

TH E next day, when we had taken leave of honest Rustick, Cleanthes told me I had done him the greatest favour in prejudicing that good-natured young fellow so much in his favour; but, O! Lorenzo, suppose he should break off this match with lord Simple, some other lover would soon interpose to rui i my hopes.

I begged him not to give way to thoughts that might distract him. Semanthe had too much honour and resolution to suffer any hardships to force her to falsify her vows to him.

Company interrupted us; I retired into the most solitary walk I could meet with, on purpose to indulge a melancholy that feized me, when I considered the difficulties I had to struggle with, before I could call Lucinda mine. And, to add to my fears, I had no letters from Alvaro, as I might reasonably have expected I should. In great perplexity of mind, I strolled on, till I found myself at a little farm-house, some miles distant from the castle: at the door stood

stood a young creature of the most elegant form. Her uncommon beauty, air, and mien, greatly surprized me! she seemed shocked at the sight of a stranger! but that did not deter me from telling her how much I was astonished to see a lady of her youth and beauty grace so humble a cottage.

Sir, replied the blushing fair, you ought not always to judge by appearance; for, I assure you, I have found more content under this lonely roof, than in all the magnificent houses of the great. These words raised my curiosity so high, that I begged her not to think me impertinent, if I pressed earnestly to know as much of her story as she cared to divulge.

Sir, I have no secrets in my life, that should make me ashamed to satisfy your request. My father William Careless, Esq; had two wives; by the first, he had a son, who was to heir his estate, charged with three thousand pounds, to be paid me when I was of age. I lost my parents so young, that their death made no impression on my mind. Unknowing of my loss, I did not consider the dangerous situation I was in; my brother, though many years older than

myself.

myself, was still young enough to be very gay and thoughtless: he was my guardian; and from my infancy treated me in so engaging a manner, that I loved him tenderly, and, I must say, he deserved it; but as years encreased, I found him greatly altered. He grew peevish and fretful; his mind was always disturbed; nothing I could do, pleased him; which made me so wretched, that he observing it, said, Lucy, what is the matter with you? I fear my behaviour gives you room to complain: but as you are now of an age to be trusted with the cause of my uneasiness, I have imprudently suffered myself to be drawn into gaming, by a set of sharpers, to lose so much money, that I must alter my way of living.

Struck to the heart at what he said, I burst into tears, and replied, then I must be divided from you; I cannot bear the thought! Is there no way to retrieve this fatal step? take some of my money, and try; perhaps fortune may change sides. No, my dear Lucy, returned he, you are yet safe; do not tempt me to ruin you as well as myself. His caution had no effect upon me, for I really believe my soul is turned to friendship

ship more than love; which made me insist upon his taking what was saved since my father's death. He wiped my eyes, and told me, I was a good creature; and then left me. But the next day, he said, you are a lucky girl; your money has produced me a thousand guineas. A few such sums as this would make me easy. This he pronounced with the gayest air imaginable.

I was so pleased to see him returned to his former self, that I proposed every means in my power to lessen his expences. He seemed much obliged, and, for some months, we went on without any great cloud upon his brow: but, alas! this calm was the fore-runner of a storm, that had liked to have destroyed me. I found neither his friends nor mine came to us as usual: he never stirred out till night. Distracted with conjectures, I begged earnestly to know what I had to fear? With despair painted in his face, he confessed he was undone; his estate was sold to satisfy his creditors: but what grieved him most, was the thought of my being reduced to live on the third part of my fortune: then I have a thousand pound left, said I; but, what will become of you? No matter

matter what: friendless and forlorn I must leave my native land in quest of bread. Do not talk so; you shall take half of what is left: I have heard of great estates being got by trading abroad. He looked earnestly at me, and then cried out, no! my Lucy, I will starve rather than injure you a second time! 'Tis impossible to tell you what we suffered. All his extravagant follies appeared to him in so just a light, that remorse and anguish of soul almost banished reason from his breast; till, by every gentle argument I could invent, I soothed his sorrows, and made him consent to take four hundred guineas.

Soon after a ship for the West Indies being ready to sail, I saw him on board. My grief was so excessive, that the captain being moved with my complaints, begged to know what could make me so wretched? My brother painted his own follies and my behaviour in such a light, that the captain, who, I found, had not the most favourable opinion of women, viewed me as a character never to be met with again. At my parting from Careless, neither of us could say, farewell! which the captain observing, he begged me not to grieve so immoderate-

Iy: for, as my brother confessed his faults, he would treat him more like his son than a passenger.

Forlorn and wretched I returned to the inn, asking the woman, if she knew any place where I could hide myself from the world. I have a daughter married to a farmer about four miles off: she is a very good girl; but I fear the house will not be good enough for so fine a lady as you.

In short, I was conducted to this little cot, where I have lived above a year; in which time, I have brought my desires to correspond with my fortune. My impatience to hear from my brother, very often interferes to disturb my repose. And now, sir, if I have tired you, forgive it; for 'tis so seldom that any body's curiosity leads them to enquire after an unfortunate young woman, that I fear I have been too narrative. But we are apt to think we are entertaining others, when we are pleasing ourselves with a melancholy recital of our past woes.

Madam, answered I, you have laid me under an obligation that I will acknowledge as long as I live. For, if there is a man upon earth that can be in-

indifferent to the distresses of youth and innocence, I despise his stoical principles : for, I declare, I think your behaviour to your brother so truely generous, that had I been of the captain's mind before, I should now be convinced that your beauteous sex has all the noble sentiments of ours ; with a softness and delicacy of manners, that far surpasses us. But, how is it possible a lady of your refined notions, can support life without conversation ? especially, as there are so many people of fashion about you. I am sure did Cleanthes and his sister know they had such a neighbour, they would study to make your solitude more agreeable.

I have heard so much of their amiable behaviour to a deserving stranger, that was shipwrecked upon our coast, that I must confess I have often wished I had been known to them before adversity had stripped me of all outward grandeur. Now 'tis too late, poverty is but a bad recommendation to those who have lived in the greatest prosperity.

I told her, their treatment of that stranger might convince her, riches were of no estimation to those, who were possessed of a general benevolence. To be
un-

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deliverer ; and, as I have heard, the ge-
nerous maid confessed his merit, and re-
turned his love.

I know it has been said, difficulties
strengthens the mind, as labour does the
body. But I don't find it so. Whether
the reluctance at being known proceeds
from lowness of spirits, or pride, I can-
not say ; but I own, though I am much
obliged to you for your kind intentions, I
cannot bear an interview, that would over-
whelm me with confusion : therefore,
pray, Sir, make me no answer, but suf-
fer me to retire into myself, after assuring
you, if you have an idle hour that hangs
upon your hands, I shall esteem it a fa-
vour if you will trifle it away with an
unfortunate wretch, who knows 'tis her
duty to bear the ills of life, though she
must feel them very severely.

She left me, and I returned to the
castle; where finding a crowd of company,

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I retired to my own appartement, where I fell into very grave reflexions. Lucy's story made me pity her, as I saw she was too much depressed for me to be of any service to her. I moralized upon all the ills of this world; concluding no man could be said to live a rational life, who did shink of every misfortne that might happen before he felt them. This thought led me into so grave a turn of mind, that I fancied Alvaro and my mother were shipwrecked upon some unhospitable shore, where no Lucinda would be found to save them from destruction.

The company gone, Lucinda flew to me, and in great disorder, cried, what is the matter? for God's sake, do not keep me in suspence! Have you any bad accounts from Rome? No! my charmer, 'tis the misfortunes of a beautiful young creature that I met with this morning, that recalled all the evils I have struggled with since first I breathed this vital air. Who is this very extraordinary person that robs you of your self? adding, with some warmth, if you are to be wretched for the sorrows of every one you meet with, you will never have any peace of mind.

Cleanthes

Cleanthes joining, as he saw his sister a little discomposed, said, Lucinda, I am surprized to see my friend Lorenzo look unhappy; and, at the same time, I observe signs of anger in your face. I assure you, his concern is for some more worthy object. I told her, that was unkindly urged; as it was impossible for me ever to see a lady half so deserving as herself; that, if she would give me leave to explain what I only hinted at, I was very sure they would allow compassion was due to so uncommon a case as I had heard that morning.

Sister, cried Cleanthes, you have been too hasty! proceed, Lorenzo, and let us know how we may help to support this tender mourner: you may be sure I used all my rhetoric to paint the sufferings of Lucy Careless in the strongest colours, closing my account with the very high opinion she had of her and Cleanthes; which made me take the liberty to proffer her an interview with them, which she absolutely refused; as, to use her own words, she told me, poverty was a very bad recommendation to those, whose affluent fortunes set them above the low condition of so

lost a wretch as she was. I soon found I had succeeded as I desired. Lucinda begged my pardon, and, with a modest blush, assured me, Lucy should be her peculiar care, if she would permit her to relieve her sorrows, though she could not banish them from her breast.

I again repeated the story to Sprightly: he told me I was a perfect knight-errant: not but, he thought, the girl ought to be relieved, which he was the more inclined to, as he knew Jack Careless; who was really a good-natured, honest, sensible fellow; but thoughtless, and easily drawn into any scheme that pleased him. If this girl is his sister, her behaviour was generous: and if her regard arose from a more tender motive, she is still an object of compassion.

Lucinda declared, if there was any thing blameable in her conduct, she should leave her to the care of the gentlemen. That is one of the greatest evils that attends the loss of fortune, said Cleanthes, calumny is ever ready, with her envenomed tooth, to blast their innocence: even the dear Semanthe would not have escaped censure, had she been in Lucy's situation; therefore,

fore, I beg you would conduct me to
this melancholy fair-one.

Cleanthes, answered I, if I expressed myself too warmly in Lucy's cause, my only motive was compassion: for 'tis impossible love should ever touch my heart but in the matchless form of Lucinda, whose anger, I must confess, gave me a pleasure never felt till this blessed moment; for I know jealousy is a constant attendant on that soft and noblest passion of the soul. And now, Sprightly, I know that truth lies at the bottom of a very deep well: but yet, I will venture to affirm, there was such an artless simplicity in all she said, that guilt and perfidy must be strangers to her breast. But how to convince you of this truth I do not know. She flies all human society: 'twas chance that led me to her cottage: how then can I introduce you without Lucinda will be of our party?

At your request, I will forego my womanish scruples, and attend you to gain admittance to this unhappy stranger. Talk no more of scruples, cried Sprightly, order your coach to set you down within a little walk of the cottage. As we draw near, you, madam, must be taken ill; then will I beg them to admit

you to stay till I call up the coach: take my word for it, Lucy will fly to your assistance. Soon after, Lorenzo and Cleanthes may appear, and then a conversation must ensue. The ice once broke, she will not be so reserved for the future.

I wish there were no greater hardships to be encountered, before we can obtain the sight of Semanthe and Ifabella. I own I have no clue that can lead us through that labyrinth.

When our peace of mind depends upon others, replied Cleanthes, we must be unhappy. The generality of the world are capricious, vain, and trifling: how few have the same way of thinking that we have? and when we differ from them, how do they condemn us? you see this very sir Charles, though struggling with age and infirmities, cannot bear my sister should refuse him. Pride and revenge are the two sources from which all his hatred to us proceeds. A hatred so strong, that he will not give us leave to defend ourselves from his unjust aspersions. Would he have followed the course of nature, it would have been smooth and easy; but, as he crosses it, he strives against the stream. Poor Semanthe

Semanthe is the slave of his power; and we the wretched dependants on his arbitrary will. Were it not for the courage of his matchless daughter, I should have no hopes; if that fails, adieu to all the false, deceitful joys of love. As pleasure never was my guide, tho' she was my companion, I shall banish her my presence.

We all know, answered I, wisdom is the effect of time; but till that cool deliberate age approaches, I cannot be brought to think the joys of love are vain and fugitive. That is because you have the object of your passion still before you, cried Sprightly, but was you banished from the sight of Lucinda, I fancy you would not think your situation so very delightful. I was obliged to confess the truth of his assertion: upon which, our two lovers grew so thoughtful, that we could not inspire them with more favourable ideas of what they might expect from the two ladies. But you know there are times when counsel is tedious and advice troublesome, which made us separate sooner than usual.

C H A P. XXII.

WHEN morning arrived, I was impatient till they had seen Lucy. But before I could execute my project, Clitander, with his accostomed gaiety, said, Cleanthes, you are a lucky man ; for lord Simple's servants affirm, six villains, in masques, armed with blunderbusses, beset his house last night, most inhumanly firing in at his bedchamber windows with such a force, that the bullets went through his curtains, and lodged in the wainscot. They farther add, it was by the particular interposition of Providence that his life was preserved : not but that the fright has thrown the contemptible wretch into such a state of health, that the doctor pronounces him in some danger. Letty is so disturbed, that if the doctor offers to leave her, she falls into hysterics, and her brother into his fainting fits.

Does any body guess who these rogues are ? cried Cleanthes. No, no, said the other ; I dare say their was no mischief designed ; as the dreadful instrument of death is no where to be found. I dare

say,

say, it was some wild young fellow, that broke two or thre panes of glass on purpose to terrify him. I fear they have carried the joke too far, cried Cleanthes. Don't let your good nature suffer you to grieve for the accident, replied Clitander; for I saw him this morning sitting up in his bedgown, with a white handkerchief in one hand, and a smelling-bottle in the other. All these lady-airs convinces me, as the fright wears off, he will be as much an inhabitant of this world as ever he was: for I am in dispute, whether that body of his can be animated by an immortal soul: for to tell you the truth, I rather think he is a very surprising piece of clock-work; contrived to go on for a stated time, and then vanish into air. I am going to sir Charles, on purpose to thrust this sad news into his ears, in hopes to convince him, this reptile is unworthy of Semanthe. Isabella and I shall find great pleasure in playing him off: for I know he will be profoundly stupid on this occasion.

Sprightly, I found, was so discomposed at his naming Isabella, that he said, I have heard that lady has so much wit and beauty, that I should think it would be dangerous to trust yourself with her.

As her uncle is determined not to let her marry till she is of age, though I think as highly of that lady's beauty as any man living, replied Clitander; yet as I am immensely fond of liberty, I guard my heart so carefully, that I am in no danger of being engrossed by any one of the fair sex. Like the luxuriant bee, I love to range from flower to flower. I cannot bear to be confined to a hive, though all the blooming sweets that graced fair Eden's plains, were lavished on me.

Sprightly, when he went, seemed mightily pleased with his declaration; and soon after, we arrived at the cot, where every thing happened just as I wished. The poor woman was abroad, which forced Lucy to run to assist Lu-cinda; but when she saw me, she told me, I had deceived her. And then addressing herself to Cleanthes, she said, Sir, I am ashamed of giving you and this lady the trouble of coming to my humble habitation.

Madam, replied he, virtue has power to adorn the meanest dwelling. Then do not refuse my sister and I the infinite joy it will give us to draw you out of this ob-

obscurity, where the imprudence of your brother has forced you to retire.

She expressed her thanks in so engaging a manner, that I saw they were pleased with her. Then turning to me, she told me, she feared I had been a very partial historian ; or those who were placed in a rank so much above her present lot, would not have taken the pains to visit an unknown, friendless girl ; who might, for ought they knew, have forged a story, to gain compassion. She then begged Lucinda would not impute her refusing the honour of her acquaintance to any thing, but the fear of being known to a particular family in that country.

Really, replied Lucinda, as misfortunes cannot be deemed crimes, I see no one reason why you should leave the world. No : let the guilty fly to woods and deserts ; while innocence and truth may claim protection from those who have it in their power to assist them. If you know some that are void of every social virtue, despise the wretches : nor fear to name them to me ; who will endeavour, by every means in my power, to convince you, I despise every paltry advantage I may possess, but as it enables me to administer to the distresses of others.

Pride

Pride and arrogance can find no place in a soul like yours. Few have so noble a way of thinking. Two such I have known before ; nor will I fear to derogate from your merit, by naming Semanthe and Isabella. With the same kind concern they pitied my distress. But sir Charles soon banished me their presence, by treating my brother with such contempt and scorn, that, unable to bear his insults, I took his part with such a warmth of friendship, that he forbid me his house ; advising me to go with my beggarly brother to some foreign clime, where we might meet with none to despise our want of prudence. These are my reasons for flying the sight of that insolent man. Nor can you blame me ; without fortune, when she stript me of all possible means to support the rank I was born to, had also deprived me of the conscious pride of knowing I had done nothing to blame myself for.

Heroic maid, cried Cleanthes ; I honour you as much for resenting the brutish behaviour of sir Charles, as for your other virtues.

Great souls cannot bear to be insulted ; nor hear those they love treated like vile criminals. I must despise any person that suf-

fers the foibles of human nature to cancel every good quality they possess. But in such a case as this, 'twas an outrage against humanity. Therefore, Lucinda, added he, take this injured beauty under your protection ; nor will I fail to guard her from a base, degenerate world.

Here Sprightly asked Lucinda if her fair nurse had not cured her of her late illness. She has convinced me, that youth and innocence cannot soften the obdurate hearts of those men, who, sunk in pride and luxury, never fail to despise the sorrows of all who are doomed to taste the bitter cup of affliction. This lady's case is very hard ; but if she will permit me to call her friend, I will endeavour to make up her loss, in being deprived the sight of Semanthe and Isabella.

Madam, replied the weeping fair, some people's favours appear little better than injuries ; but you have the power to subdue the will, and captivate the understanding. Sure, continued she, addressing herself to me, my guardian angel sent you to lead me once more into the pleasing paths of virtuous friendship. I should be ashamed to claim that honour, had not this lady and her brother encouraged
me

me to hope, my greatful soul will never give them any reason to repent the kind offer they have made me. It would be an insolent foolish pride to refuse favours from those who seem to be born to help the distressed.

Sprightly, convinced Careless was her brother, enquired kindly into his affairs ; which she answered with an easy freedom that charmed him. I must say, I felt a pleasure not to be expressed when I heard them all so warm in promises to serve her. But she absolutely refused till she had changed her dress for one more becoming to those who sat at their table.

When we left her, Cleanthes began to think how he might relieve her without shocking her delicacy. He told us a young creature just fallen from the station she was born to, must be very unhappy if she was obliged to conform to the humours of others, which would very often force her to appear chearful. When recollection brought back the days of ease and freedom, how would restraint imbitter all the enjoyments she could meet with in his family. Therefore, he was determined to give her a place she might call her own ; and

and that he could think of none so proper as the grove. This was a small house he had built in the most delightful part of the park; where he used to retire when he had a mind to be alone. To you, Lucinda, added he, I leave the providing every thing ready for her reception. This scheme executed, it must be your address to persuade her to leave the farmer's on purpose to be near you; that as we make no use of that house, I shall take it very ill if she refuses a request that will make you happy.

We all applauded his generous design, which he would by no means allow an action worthy commendation; as it gave him a satisfaction not to be expressed. We were set down at the grove, where orders were given to have this little paradise made ready to receive Lucy; which, with a bewitching smile, she said, would give me great pleasure.

I must confess, answered I, it is with joy I see you: take that helpless fair one into the number of your friends; as I have been distressed myself, I have learned to pity the woes of others.

For,

For, in all my travels, I never met with any body but you and your brother, that were capable of conferring favours without making the obliged party feel themselves more indebted for the relief they had received, than the whole business of their life could repay. And, O! Lucinda, added I, in this wretched situation my mother may wander on some foreign shore, obliged for a scanty subsistence, to some sordid miser, that deals out his bounty with a sparing hand, upbraiding her with the expence she has been to him.

You have raised up so dreadful a set of ideas to torment me, that I find myself unable to support the thought. Therefore, let us banish fear, nor doubt but that honoured parent will be protected from all the dangers of the boisterous ocean. Was not you preserved? and, why may not some more prosperous gales waft her to our friendly shore?

The bell at the castle called us to dinner. We found Cleanthes and Sprightly very impatient to hear from Rustick; as we were ignorant of what was doing at Wealthy-place.

We

We had but just dined, when, company coming in, I retired to ruminant on the various changes that had befallen me since I was thrown upon this Island. But I was soon rouzed out of a sort of despondency that had seized me, by Lucinda's approaching me with a countenance expressing the utmost grief. Lorenzo, cried she, what must I do? my brother is, I fear, lost to himself and to the world! A gentleman has told him, Semanthe is so ill, that her life is despaired of; he has shut himself up in his study. Sprightly is rode away to try if he can see any of sir Charles's servants. But, come and help me to relieve this best of men.

This is dreadful news! but, my dear Lucinda, I believe we had better let the first transports of his grief be over, and then he may hear reason; or when Sprightly returns, we may have hopes of this afflicted beauty. Then, clasping my Lucinda in my arms, I begged her to remember she must depend upon the wise disposer of all events, who did not allow us to grieve like men without hope. I have not philosophy enough to bear the various ills that threatens to overwhelm me. You
are

are so connected with my family, that our sorrows, added to your own, is not to be supported. 'Tis impossible for me to be compleatly wretched, while thus I hold thee in my arms! thy truth and innocence are blessings far beyound my hopes: not but the sufferings of Cleanthes wound me to the soul. For him I feel the pangs of disappointed love! how wretched is his lot! but now, my charmer, let us attend this disconsolate youth.

We then knocked gently at the door: he immediately appeared, and cried out, alas! my friends, reason cannot mitigate the pains I suffer. That lovely creature might have been happy, had she never known me. 'Tis my evil stars that sends her an early victim to the shades below.

You are not in fault, answered I: no, 'tis her inhuman father that dooms his child to all the horrors of despair. Was she in such imminent danger, Rustick must have heard it from the doctor: send a servant to him to know the truth of this report.

He would fain have gone himself, but we told him that would be very wrong; as Rustick might be abroad.

Sprightly,

Sprightly could not be long ; and why should he be in pain one moment, which, perhads he might have avoided, if he had complied with our request ? He consented, and I must say, we past some of the most dreadful hours I ever knew in my life. For though he had a great command of temper, I saw he was wrecked with a thousand fears : every little noise alarmed him ; his too busy fancy represented the darling object of his tenderest wishes, pale and almost breathless, the fluttering soul just ready to ascend the regions of the blessed. Sometimes he flattered himself, her youth and Isabella's care might restore her to health. Then he blamed Rustick for not telling him she was ill, that he might have forced sir Charles to permit him to take a melancholy leave of all his earthly joys.

In vain we endeavoured to sooth his sorrows: Sprightly returned with so dejected an air, that horrors feized us in such a manner, that we had not power to speak, till Cleanthes, with a sort of wild confusion in his eyes, conjured him not to keep him in suspense, as he must submit to the law of necessity.

You

You shall be obeyed. As I was loitering about the house, I at last saw a woman at the gate: I begged for Heaven's sake, she would tell me what hopes she had of Semanthe's recovery? Poor lady, answered she, when her head is disordered, she talks of Cleanthes without ceasing; protesting she will not marry lord Simple, let what will be the consequence. This never fails of putting her father into a very great passion. 'Tis then Isabella tells him his own in such a manner, that she sometimes draws tears from his eyes; by affirming it was his barbarity that reduced his wretched daughter to that deplorable situation. He then flies out of the room. Isabella omits no friendly means she can invent to remove that weight of woe that sinks her spirits. No medicines has hitherto relieved her: but they have heard some news to day, that gave them so much joy, that I hope it will produce a turn in Semanthe's distemper; for I left her in a fine quiet sleep. If she wakes refreshed, I believe you need not despair. In vain I endeavoured to bribe her to speak to Isabella. She told me 'twas impossible, as every servant in the house had taken the most solemn oath, never

never to carry a note or message to the ladies without his knowledge. She could only pity them, without having it in her power to serve them. She gave me no time to answer her; and yet I cannot think good news would have any effect upon Isabella, had she despaired of Semanthe's life.

You are very kind, returned Cleanthes, but I fear this fatal night will convince her she is deceived. 'Tis now too late to unravel her plot: I must resign the lovely maid to a more terrible rival than lord Simple. But my misfortunes will not be a bar to the union of Lorenzo and my sister. You, Sprightly, must give her to her deserving lover, as soon as I can resolve upon some plan for my future life. For I will not damp their bridal joys with my ill-timed sorrow; but no more of this, till my mind is a little composed. Dear Lucinda, dry thy tears, and banish the sad ideas I have raised to torment thee. All may yet be well. Who knows what this night may produce!

We could none of us make him an answer. Over powered with sorrow, we retired to our own appartments; where

I gave

I gave way to all the softer passions of the soul. Love for Luciada, gratitude and friendship for her brother; pity for Semanthe, with numberless fears for my mother and Alvaro, by turns, distracted me. In vain I endeavoured to acquire some fortitude. Restless and unhappy, I wore out a tedious night, till nature oppressed with a great variety of ills, I sunk to rest.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXIII.

I Did not long enjoy my repose, before I was alarmed by a servant who had attended on Cleantes from his infancy. I asked him very hastily what he wanted? Sir, replied he, I ask pardon for disturbing you, but I am almost out of my senses; my master has not been in bed to-night! He does not know I have watched with him. He is now gone into the park. I dare not follow him; but I hope you will.

I luckily found him in my favourite walk. He seemed surprised at seeing me; upon which I took his hand, and said, my much-loved friend, can you suppose me such a wretch, as not to feel your sorrows as much as if they had been my own? — Such a friend is worth living for. But, Lorenzo, what will fate do with me? Perhaps Semanthe is no more! that is a dreadful thought! My health is not so established as to support the loss I may have sustained. I am ready to sink! I must have something to support my spirits. Lucinda's windows are open; let us go in. We did

did so. When his sister accosted us with the most dejected air. The fire that used to animate her lovely eyes, seemed extinguished by tears. However, she hid her concern as much as possibly she could.

Cleanthes, cried Sprightly, how can you, who have seen death in a thousand ghastly shapes, with a courage and constancy that surprised all that knew you, be in doubt, whether you shall go to Wealthy-place or not? because I prefer the least glimmering of hope, rather than be convinced I have none at all. I dare not trust myself to hear those dreadful words, poor thing she is no more!

While we were in this dismal situation, I heard Rustick ask, where is Lorenzo? Here, said I, have you any good news? Yes, faith; or you should not have seen me. The doctor affirms the fever intermits. Cleanthes embraced him, and called him, the messenger of peace; begging him once more to repeat the charming sound; as he could hardly flatter himself one night could make such an alteration. Upon my soul, 'tis true, cried the other. The fright I put the peer into, made way for

for the doctor's arguments, who, after some time, by the help of Letty, they brought him to consent, that the next day he should carry the last dying speech and confession of the right honourable lord Simple to Wealthy-place; wherein he repents of all his follies; but more especially of villainously joining sir Charles in persecuting two lovers who seemed to be born for each other. As Bell contrived the declaration should be made in Semanthe's room, it proved the best cordial to raise her drooping spirits: for fixing her eyes upon her father, she told him he had reduced her very low indeed, to be refused by a man she despised. But, pray, doctor, added she, do me the favour to tell him I would have borne death rather than have been the wife of such a creature.

The doctor pretended to soften matters, by saying, nothing but want of health could have forced him to give up his pretensions to a lady of her beauty and merit. Upon this my uncle raved and stormed like a mad-man; swearing he could not have thought any one of lord Simple's birth and fortune, could have been such a cowardly dastard,

as to be frightened out of his wits, because, as Clitander told him, him, some wild young fellows had broke his windows. Bell aggravated the affront put upon him and his daughter. Adding, well, if a certain person has not more generosity than ever man had, he must rejoice to see us so humbled by this descendent from the Norman blood. I protest, Semanthe, you shall wear the willow garland; and so must I; for we shall be so despised for admitting the visits of this reptile, that I don't believe we shall ever make a new conquest. A sad consideration; is it not Uncle? Sir Charles, you know, is a little afraid of Bell's wit, so he left the room, which gave the girls time to thank him; and, at the same time, begged him to inform me of all that had passed. He did so, and I set out early this morning, and was so lucky to meet the doctor, who assured me, Semanthe had rested very well; and as her mind was more composed, he did not fear her recovery. But, sir, continued he, as you have enabled me to make my fortune, I flatter myself you will be glad to hear Miss Letty and I have been privately married some days,

by

by her brother's chaplain. I wished him joy, and hastened hither, for fear my lady Fame should babble out a dreadful story of Semanthe's being at the point of death. I knew what you would all suffer; especially Cleanthes. But, what is the matter with you all? 'ads life, if any body had told me my Harriot had escaped from so dangerous a fit of illness, I should have gone mad for joy.

You are used to the smiles of fortune, said Cleanthes; but to me pleasure is of the nature of time, who can call nothing her own but a single instant. This I enjoyed the first moment you assured me she was better. But, some unlucky turn may rob me of a life more dear to me than riches, fame, or honour. I am a banished man: I cannot welcome her to life, to liberty, and love. Nature, in sir Charles, is dead; nor can I soften his fierce, his unforgiving soul. I beg your pardon, for dashing your full-blown joys. Mine are all blited! not but I gratefully acknowledge all your favours. But, alas! my resolves are weak; reason cannot resume her empire over this ungoverned passion.

I own you have but a bad prospect, cried Rustick, but courage: what, shall so many young fellows be outwitted by an old soul that has hardly common sense? My mother and Fanny will see Semanthe in their way hither; they will confirm what I told you of her recovery.

To turn the discourse, I asked how Truman and he had proceeded in their affairs? So well, replied the other, that nothing but your misery could have hindered us from being compleatly happy. At present the hymenial torch is extinguished, as we are determined to have this company to grace our nuptials.

You are very obliging, returned Cleanthes, but how unfit am I to share the social feast! Can complaints and sighs adorn the triumphs of love's soft queen? No! give your blooming sister to the constant Truman; and, in return, he will resign the lovely Harriot to your faithful arms. Lorenzo and my sister will attend you; and be assured, I wish you all the joys he has in store, may be poured upon you, with an unsparing hand.

The

The arrival of Mrs. Rustick and Fanny dissipated our fears, by affirming sir Charles's ill-nature, in threatening to force her to marry lord Simple, was the cause of her illness. That she was now much better, and conjured him to believe no power on earth should ever make her give her hand to another. Bell, continued she, is not so free in declaring her sentiments; but I dare say she is as well convinced of Mr. Sprightly's merit, as the other is of Cleanthes.

If this good news, cried Fanny, does not make you put off these dismal faces, I shall think you a set of unreasonable people. It was impossible not to be amused with this artless girl. Cleanthes told her he hoped Truman would favour him with his company. I shall be angry if he does not come, said Fanny, for I can't bear to be disappointed, till he has a right to command me. O dear! that is but a melancholy consideration, Lucinda, let us take a walk in the park, for I am tired of sitting in the coach.

We led them to the grove, where, charmed with the prospect, they seated themselves, to admire the distant palaces.

and lofty mountains, crowned with trees, whose spreading branches seemed to hide their tops among the azure clouds; nor were the humble valleys and the flowery lawns less pleasing to the eye; for there, the wanton kid and tender lamb, unknowing of their fate, and unconstrained by laws and customs, followed great Nature's rules. No cruel parents there had power to rob their young ones of their native freedom: in artless innocence they skipped and played; till man, injurious man, cuts short their thread of life.

As I was thinking with what savage pride we sometimes use our power, I was rouzed out of my reveries by Fanny asking me, what she should see on the top of that hill before her? A fine prospect of the sea, answered I: she expressed such an impatience to see it, that Sprightly offered to attend her. She took him at his word. As we were observing with what alacrity she ascended, we saw Truman and his sister: the first compliments over, the lover asked Rustick, where miss Fanny was? She is on the top of that precipice; but don't be frightened, for Sprightly is with her. Sprightly! cried the lover, why, what

what has he to say to her? You may ask her that, said Rustick; but don't be jealous without a cause; for he is engaged to Bell. Wealthy.

As we walked on, we saw poor Fanny fall with such a force, that we feared she was dead: the mother cried out, O! my child! and then fainted away. The mild and gentle Harriot was so disordered, that we left Rustick and Lucinda to take care of them, while we ran to Fanny. Truman got the start of us; for we found him sitting by her, with her head reclined on his bosom, lamenting his hard fate. In vain he called the much-loved maid by all the tender names he could invent. No signs of life appeared; a livid pallor had obscured her native charms, till Cleanthes, swift as the winged messenger of the gods, brought relief. The cordial drops soon brought her to herself, when, lifting up her eyes, she said, where am I? What is become of my mother and Truman? I am here! said the transported lover. Well, don't be frightened; I only stunned myself with the fall: had I taken Sprightly's advice, this had not happened. If I don't learn to mistrust my own conduct, Truman will

will have a sad time of it. But what is become of Sprightly? Thank heaven, I hear your voice, cried he, for indeed I feared I never should.

As soon as I was convinced she had broke none of her limbs, I returned to the place where I had left Lucinda, to support the Rusticks. I had much ado to persuade them she was perfectly well. I then conducted them to Fanny: the joy of the mother was inexpressible; but Rustick told her she was too ventersome; his Harriot had been overpowered with grief; poor Truman looked as if he had seen his grandmother's ghost; and Sprightly viewed himself as a guilty person, for letting her take her own way.

I own, I deserve all this, and a great deal more, returned Fanny; but, sir, continued she, addressing herself to me, was you set a drift upon that boisterous element? if so, to be sure, Neptune's wife was in love with you, and so she persuaded her husband to put you under the protection of Lucinda. But don't trust her any more, lest she should make you her prisoner.

I told

I told her some of the rural deities had performed the same friendly office for Truman; or, what would have become of her.

The servants calling us to dinner, we returned to the castle, where every thing appeared magnificent. When we had recreated our languid spirits, and Fanny had recruited her usual life, she said, upon my word, Harriot, you and your brother are so very grave that I am not quite sure I am alive: and, yet I find myself so perfectly well, that if Lucinda and my mother approves my scheme, I should be glad to go again to the grove, to hear the history of the young lady that is to inhabit that delightful place.

Cleanthes assured her, he would not part with them; therefore he begged his sister to satisfy their curiosity.

Lucinda, who had every requisite to adorn her words and actions, told the story in so moving a manner, that Harriot, with all the mildness and modesty of a vestal virgin, declared, she wondered how it was possible so young a lady could support so dreadful a change of fortune. - For her part, she should certainly have sunk under such a weight

of woe; but, no doubt, Lorenzo was designed, by Providence, to reward her generosity to the unhappy Careless, by introducing her into that family, who were always ready to relieve the distressed

Rustick, with pleasure sparkling in his eyes, applauded Harriot's sentiments; when his mother said, I am at present surrounded by a set of young people, who I consider as my children; therefore give me leave to declare, that through the whole course of my life, I have constantly found all my enjoyments attended with pain: believe me, Harriot, we do not know how much we can suffer from the various disappointments of this life. 'Tis true, I have always lived in the greatest affluence; but that has not defended me from the bitter pangs of false, deceitful friends; who, by the blackest ingratitude, have imbibited all my enjoyments. I have certainly paid very dear for every tender attachment I have made: but this is the doctrine of experienced age. You will not believe me till your passions are subsided, and then you will be taught to moderate your desires before they get the better
of

of your reason. What did I suffer when I saw that girl lie breathless on the ground? but I will appeal to Cleanthes for the truth of what I say. Can all his good sense and philosophy defend him from the misery he feels in supporting life without Semanthe?

Madam, replied he, I applaud the justness of your notions, and wish I could follow them, I might then deserve the character you have given me. But, alas! your lovely niece has entirely vanquished all the philosophy I was master of. But sure love grounded upon virtuous principles is the noblest passion of the soul. I cannot believe that time will alter my way of thinking. Therefore I beg you will permit me to pursue my Semanthe, without being too hard upon the frailties of lovers.

By no means, said Mrs. Rustick, I do not pretend to inform you gentlemen how you are to conduct yourselves. I would warn these unexperienced young creatures, not to expect to purchase sweets without some following gaul: and now, Lucinda, continued she, I must confess, I have a great desire to see Lucy; who, has so

very

very young been initiated into the school of adversity. I long to have her among us: conversation amuses the mind, and is some relief to an afflicted heart. I think, I should not go with you; there is some delicacy required in conferring favours upon one just fallen into misfortunes. Perhaps, our knowing her story will shock her, till you can persuade her to get the better of that mistaken diffidence, which loss of fortune too often imprints upon the mind.

As I fear I am not equal to the task, cried Lucinda, I beg you will join your persuasions to bring that mourning fair one, to learn from you how precarious all the joys of this world appear to one, who, in wisdom's school has been taught, that every thing in this world is subject to mutability; and as she knows Lorenzo, if you please, we will fail under his conduct. Three such advocates must succeed, said Cleantes; so we will be ready at the grove to receive you, and the lovely inhabitant of that rural retirement.

Rustick and his sister expressed the greatest impatience to see her; but Harriot,

riot, who was of a graver turn of temper, pitied her encountering so many strangers. Therefore, she begged Ruf-tick would not joke with her, as the wretched could not bear raillery.

I believe you are jealous of my brother, cried Fanny, or you would not grieve for a girl that is to inhabit this enchanting place: depend upon it, she will be as happy as ever she was in her life. That is impossible, returned Sprightly, Careless had a thousand pound a year; she lived at the head of it: then how can you suppose she will not feel dependency? If she had my uncle to deal with, said Fanny, I should think her an object of compassion. But, in this house, she has nothing to fear. Cleanthes and Lucinda will not upbraid her with the favours she recieves. I know they behaved so charmingly to Trueman when he was in disgrace, that I have heard him say, it was the happiest incident in his life.

It was so, answered I, as it brought him acquainted with you, which has been productive of many blessings to both families: 'tis the consequence, not the action, that is productive of
Truman's

Truman's present felicities; never man was treated in so generous and friendly a manner, as I was by Lucinda and you. I must confess, to all the world, that 'tis to you I owe every joy kind fortune can bestow. Therefore, I must join with my dear Fanny, in declaring, I think, Lucy will agree with me, that there is no pain in being obliged to those who study to serve the distressed without pride and ostentation; for when we are made to feel every moment the disparity of circumstances, it really becomes an injury instead of a favour.

All this time, Cleanthes and Sprightly were very earnest in discourse with Mrs. Rustick. I heard her say, my brother is not to be managed: your merit is a sufficient cause to banish you from his house: but, be assured, they will contrive some way to see you: neither bolts nor bars can confine inclination: the mind will always break her bonds; and then imagination never fails to snatch some precious moment to obtain her wishes. They were pleased with all she said; and the evening past chearfully. But when I retired,

retired, I could not help carrying my thoughts to Rome. Alvaro's silence filled me with a thousand fears for him and my mother, till tired with idle conjectures, I sank to rest.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXIV.

THE next morning, Cleanthes begged we would, if possible, bring home Lucy. In our little journey Lucinda said she should be much obliged to Mrs. Rustick, if she would favour her with the reason why she warned her against what she thought the greatest pleasure in the world. Depend upon it, replied the other, there are few persons of my age that has not been deceived more than once, by a false shew of virtue; which will not surprise you, when I tell you I was bred up in the midst of our great metropolis; where, surrounded by numbers of my own age and condition, I chose my companions as fancy directed, without consulting my judgment. By degrees I found most of them fickle, vain, and trifling: not but there were a few whom I should have wished to have gone through life with; but our lots falling in different parts of the island, our attachments insensibly wore off: till Semanthe's mother supply'd all their places. In her I found every thing I could desire in a friend; and though she was some years

years younger than I, yet steady to her professions, she remained constant, till that fatal period of time, when death snatched her from the fading joys of this world, to join the blessed inhabitants above. Though I was for some time inconsolable for her loss, I suffered myself to be drawn in by a lady, whose pleasing form prejudiced me in her favour. Her countenance seemed to me the transcript of her mind. My dear departed friend seemed to live again in her. I fancied sincerity dictated every word she uttered : but indulgent nature had not been assisted by fortune. This defect I supplied by every means in my power : all her sorrows were deposited in my faithful bosom. For some years, I must say, we past our time in the most pleasing intimacy. At last a gentleman of an estate made his addresses to her ; with what design I cannot say ; but this I am sure of, I did every thing in my power to bring this affair to a happy conclusion. By the help of Mr. Rustick, I succeeded to my wish. I now saw her placed in a sphere equal to her merit. She expressed her thanks and gratitude in such a manner, that my joy at her being removed from every difficulty, gave me a pleasure almost

most equal to her own ; and indeed for some time, I had no reason to complain ; but, by degrees, I saw her assume a haughty air, with a stately contemptuous treatment of all those who moved in a class beneath her. Alarmed at the change I observed in her, I began to consider her motives. I soon found, as my fortune was superior to hers, she never attempted to treat me with insolence. However I watched her narrowly ; and found she was not able to bear the company of those who knew she once wanted their assistance. In fine, her pride was piqued, and her ill-nature was over awed by my presence. Like weeds and rubbish in a poor and barren soil, her faults and follies lay concealed ; but now transported to a richer soil, they reared their horrid heads to blast the flowers, and disappoint the hand that drew them from obscurity. This was her case : She grew cold, and very reserved ; till by degrees, she dropt my acquaintance ; giving out, that I wanted to make her subservient to all my whims and fancies. But she must beg my pardon ; for she had been a slave too long already. This heavy charge amazed me. I endeavoured to clear myself : but in vain. I never could

could regain her. I am ashamed to tell you what I suffered. Her ingratitude could not make me cease to love her. I could not forbear thinking of the many happy hours we had passed together. O! 'tis dangerous to have it in our power to oblige a proud and disdainful nature. Had she not been prosperous, she would have retained her integrity. Other affairs of this nature has made me constantly warn all young people to be very careful how they make attachments ; but still I do not shut my heart against the deserving part of mankind ; nay I find myself very much inclined to receive Lucy,, as one deserving my utmost compassion. Her behaviour to Careless, shews her of a forgiving, generous temper.

We returned her thanks for the entertainment she had given us ; and at the same time, expressed the greatest abhorrence for the false maxims of those, who think it a shame to be obliged to their friends. Here I saw Lucy at a small distance from the cottage, sitting under a large spreading tree, with a book in her hand. I showed her to Mrs. Rustick ; who said, Poor thing, she looks depressed; but see, she advances towards us; let us

alight,

alight, and meet her. We did so : when Lucinda, after she had embraced her with great tenderness, introduced her to Mrs. Rustick ; telling her, that lady, charmed with her character, begged to be admitted into the number of her friends. That amiable lady took her hand, and said, My dear child, do not be ashamed of thy misfortunes, for they are the greatest ornaments, when they are supported with fortitude. Innocence in homely weeds may look down upon princes, if they are guilty of crimes unbecoming their exalted station.

Poor Lucy stood mute, with her eyes fixed upon the ground, till Lucinda said, Why so pensive ? Have you heard any bad news ? Forgive the consternation that appears in my face, cried the dejected fair one ; how could I expect in this little cottage, secreted from the world, and lost to all the joys of society, fate should send that generous stranger to paint my woes in such a light, that you, Lucinda, have influenced this lady to think me worthy her notice ? O ! Madam, continued she, had fate been propitious to my wishes, I might have had a tender mother. Forgive me, if I fancy I now behold her just like you ; humanely en-
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couraging my hopes, and dissipating those fears that haunt my lonely hours.

You are not so destitute as you imagine. Lucinda is come to lead you from this melancholy habitation, to taste the joys of social mirth. That is impossible, cried Lucy; I cannot always bear the mirthful feast, and tuneful song. Some hours every day I must dedicate to my Senico: 'tis he that calms my ruffled mind. Lucinda told her, she should converse with her old friend as often as she pleased; but if she had the least desire to oblige her brother, and this company, she must now inhabit a small house of his, that was just made ready to receive her: adding, we may then have many opportunities of conversing with you, and your preceptor: for believe me, we want you to share our sorrows, as we will yours.

You see, said Mrs. Rustick, there is something selfish in this request of Lucinda; nor am I wholly exempt from this frailty: for as I have not long to stay at the caste, I should be glad to see you settled near a family, that deserves your greatest regard.

I saw Lucy was struck with their manner of treating her. Upon which, I told her, I claimed some power over her; there-

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therefore she must give me leave to assure her, nothing could conduce more to the happiness of all parties, than her complying with the desire of Lucinda.

Sir, returned she, I will obey her commands; but I hope you do me the justice to believe, I am not insensible of the favours she does me. Alas! of what service can I be to a family, blessed with every acquisition that youth, beauty, wealth, and fame can bestow?

A true friend, replied Mrs. Rustick, is an invaluable treasure, which neither gold nor jewels can purchase. So make no more words; but while we take a walk in the wood, get yourself ready to return with us: Cleanthes will be glad to receive you, according to your birth and merit. Don't stay to answer me; because we are in haste.

She left us to rejoice in the success of our project. She soon returned in a very genteel undress; which added greatly to the delicacy of her complexion, and the dignity of her air and mien. She said a thousand obliging things; till we stopt at the grove, where Cleanthes presented his hand to the ladies. He then led her to Fanny and Harriot, who received her with marks of affection; and then honest

Rustick

Rustick, taking her in his arms, gave her a very hearty kiss ; swearing his uncle was a blind barbarian, or he would have treated her with good nature at least.

Sprightly observing she was greatly dashed, placed her by Lucinda ; who soon after showed her the house ; telling her, she was intirely at liberty to dispose of that and her time, just as she pleased : for she would take care nobody should disturb her, when she had a mind to be alone. 'Tis impossible to express what I feel upon this occasion ; shame, joy, and gratitude by turns oppress me. As it will be out of my power to discharge any part of the debt I owe you, if you find yourself relieved by my endeavours to serve you, be assured I shall think myself over-paid ; and to let you see I am intitled to your pity, I will, when we have more leisure, let you into the cross accidents that attend this family. We must now return to our company ; I hear we are summoned to dinner.

We returned to the castle ; where for some days we past our time tolerably well.

Rustick was in such high spirits, that I really believe Cleanthes and Sprightly were

were unable to bear the happy situation of our lovers.

One day, when we were divided into parties, they left us, with so melancholy an air, that I really pitied them. While our lovers were entertaining their mistresses, we told Lucy all the misfortunes sir Charles had brought upon us. Amazed at his refusing those gentlemen for his niece and daughter, she was quite shocked at his pretensions to Lucinda ; declaring she was almost in love with Rustick, for delivering Semanthe from that ridiculous lord Simple. She dreaded Timon's return ; as he was a man whose black blood ran temperately bad, Letty's marriage would make him study revenge ; as he must know the doctor was in the plot : she dreaded the consequence. You may be sure this was a theme that left no pause in our conversation.

At the castle we found all our company, but Cleanthes and Sprightly. It grew so late, that we wanted to go different roads, to seek them : but that the ladies would not agree to. At last, they came so very gay and cheerful, that I told Lucinda, her brother appeared the same identical man he was when I first knew him. We all expressed great joy at the change

change we observed in him. Yes, my friends, answered he, I shall see my Semanthe to-morrow. When we left you, we walked to Meanwell's farm, where seeing sir Charles's chariot, in we went; and found Isabella standing to see the woman milk her cows. She bid us go into the garden, and she would follow us. When we were alone, she told us Semanthe was so much better, that the doctor had ordered her to take the air; therefore we might meet them there the next morning.

Cruel Isabella, cried Sprightly, why are we to owe our good fortune to mere chance? Inhuman fair, are my sufferings of so little moment to you, that you punish Cleanthes, rather than favour me with your commands? By heaven! I cannot bear such usage. How should we divine you was to be here?

If I was as warm as you, replied Isabella, I should not undeceive you. What messenger have I that I can trust? And what do you think I came hither for? Can you suppose I am in love with this horrid woman and her cows? But for your punishment, you shall hear every word that has past between us; therefore don't

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interrupt me with the vehemence of your temper.

When I came in, I said, you are a great stranger at Wealthy place. I was afraid you was ill. O dear Madam, says the ideot, an't please your ladyship, I have no time to go a gossiping; my fowls, and my pigs, and my cows find me work enough. I am sorry for it, said I; but could you be so good as to let one of your people carry this note to Lucinda? To be sure she is the greatest fool that ever existed. She left her milking, to make me one of her best curtsies; and then said, your ladyship was always a wit, and you love to make a joke of us poor folks: for to be sure, my landlord's grace (God bless his worship) has so many cleaver men to go of errants, that I know you only banter me. Indeed you are mistaken; I will give any body half a crown that will go with this note to Lucinda. That is a power of money for a very little trouble. I am sure my good man toils and moils all day for half that money; and then he comes home so tired, that it would grieve your ladyship to see him. Without any more words, could you not get me a boy to go of this errand? Your ladyship will have your joke, when

when to be sure my Tommy, poor, dear, little soul, is not above four years old; he is indeed very sharp of his age, though I say it, and takes his learning very well; for he knows most of his letters already; and if you honour pleases, you shall hear him: your ladyship knows, his worship's grace was his godfather. It was well you came in, or I really believe I should have overturned her pale, and left her a swimming in the milk. And now, with all your wisdom, how would you have contrived to send a message, when my uncle is jealous of every creature that comes to the house? 'Tis a million to one but I am watched. Should he hear I have seen you, I believe he would send us abroad.

And will Semanthe agree to so cruel a separation, said Sprightly? for as to me, I suppose I have offended too much to be frgiven; for when love is a stranger to the heart, faults are not easily pardoned; but if the lovely Isabella knew what I suffered from that seeming neglect, I am sure she would pity me.

You are very grave upon the subject; but I assure you I am not terrified at your anger, nor do I bear malice for your mistaking the motives to my actions. I must now leave you: to-morrow we may

meet again ; make yourselves easy ; and hope for better days. I begged her to do every thing in her power to convince Semanthe my whole happiness depended upon her. Sprightly had seized her hand, which, after a feint struggle, she suffered him to press to his lips. And so we parted.

O, Lorenzo, how long will this night appear ? may good fortune attend you ! But pray take care that none of sir Charles's spies discover you. I wish you would disguise yourselves. He laughed at my fears, and pleasantly told me, the god of love would guard the place when they appeared, and make it sacred to all succeeding ages. Sprightly was in such high spirits, and lavished away so much wit, that Fanny was all life and gaiety ; and to say the truth, Rustick was a little too boisterous. Truman and his sister were modestly cheerful ; and Mrs. Rustick endeavoured to moderate her son's outrageous mirth. In the humour I was in, I must confess they over powered me. I saw no one advantage that could arise from this meeting. They were already convinced of each other's love ; and then sir Charles might have some cursed design to execute his revenge upon

upon Cleanthes. These thoughts made me very unhappy. They railled me upon my gravity : but my dear Lucinda caught the infection. A sudden gloom over spread her face. I endeavoured to banish her fears, by telling her I was so accustomed to disappointments; that I could not help suspecting the various turns that fate might give to our affairs. I do not understand you, cried Lucinda ; do you doubt my constancy? No, replied I, you are truth herself ; but alas! perhaps half my effects are lost ; and what wounds me to the soul, my mother and the faithful Alvaro cast upon some foreign shore, exposed to want and misery. These are melancholy considerations, said Lucinda ; but the too busy fancy, when left to wander in the intricate mazes of fate, she never fails to torment herself with imaginary ills : This is your cafe. But let us shake off these dreadful images, and share the joys that youth and gay companions can inspire. You do not follow the advice you give ; do I not this moment see the starting tear now fill your lovely eyes ; and see, the gentle Lucy comes to learn the cause of your distress. Sir, replied the tender maid, I cannot see Lucinda's soul in sorrow with-

out the utmost pain. Can care and pinning discontent approach these sacred walls, where the laughing god of love sits triumphant in every face but yours? Can a lady of your youth and beauty, said I, be quite ignorant of the pleasing pains that even happy lovers feel? I am a stranger to that mischievous boy. Perhaps the imprudence of Careleses involved me in so many troubles, that I had not time to listen to a gentleman, who would have persuaded me he had a prodigious opinion of my person and merit; but as my fortune disappeared, he vanished. At first my pride was piqued; but as he never touched my heart, it gave me no more uneasiness than when my female companions forsook me. And now I think I am safe, for every one in our society has chose a mate: Mrs. Rustick and I are the only persons that range at full liberty. Take care some wandering knight-errant does not find out the fair maid of the grove; for there is something very romantic in your situation. If I find myself in danger, I will fly to Lucinda and you for protection. The company I see are breaking up: so adieu May good angels guard you.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXV.

AS I have had an opportunity of seeing great numbers of these islanders, by living in a family so much esteemed as this, I must say I think they are generally well made, handsome, learned and wise; very agreeable in conversation when they can shake off that gloom, which either their climate or custom has made them contract. Early in the morning our two lovers, adorned to conquer hearts, and gay as youthful bridegrooms impatiently waiting for the wished-for hours; which no sooner arrived, that mounting their pampered steeds, we soon lost sight of them. Cleantes had the advantage of being something taller than his friend, which made him one of the finest figures I ever beheld; nor was his address and understanding less to be admired than his person. Full of their amiable qualities, and anxious for their success, we retired to the grove, where we ranged through every beauteous walk adorned by nature to attract the eye, and tempt the traveller to wander in her pleasing paths, till the

sun, in full meridian glory, forced us to return to the castle.

After we had waited, with the utmost impatience some hours, for their return, we were alarmed by farmer Meanwell, telling the servants they must send his honour's chariot to fetch them from his house. In vain we urged him to tell us what accident had befallen them ; he only answered, I must return to my dame and poor little Tommy, for they are frightened out of their wits : Their worships will tell you all when they come ; but they beg you will not go to them ; for if you do, belike they will be very angry.

In these unhappy moments of expectation, all evil planets seemed in conjunction. Good heaven ! what did we suffer, while suspence racked us with the worst of evils ? At last they appeared ; but O how changed ! their garments were stained with blood. Cleanthes had a handkerchief tied about his head, and Sprightly another round his arm, with a fierce indignation in their faces ; and at the same time, a languid paleness usurped their youthful vigour.

Mrs. Rustick, who had practised surgery as well as physic among her country neighbours, finding the motion of the chariot

chariot had made their wounds bleed afresh, she entreated them to let her endeavour to serve them, till a more skilful hand came to their assistance. They accepted her offer; and she was so dexterous, that she succeeded; and then persuaded them to go to bed, and we would suspend our curiosity till they could safely inform us what dire accident had brought them into that sad situation. Madam, cried Cleanthes, I am not able to bear the cruel disappointment I have met with. She told him she would hear no more; and then calling the servants, she saw them gently laid in bed.

All this time we stood like people bereft of their senses, till the two servants, that attended them when they left us, returned. They told us, the ladies were got safe home; and that they charged them to tell us they had recovered their fright, and were now only in pain for the gentlemen. The poor fellow that I told you loved his master so well, looked ready to sink; but terrified as he was, he had taken care to provide a surgeon; who having dressed their wounds, insisted upon their being kept as quiet as possible, as there was great danger of a fever. It was with difficulty we persuaded them to

submit to rules; however at last they complied, and we returned to examine Sprightly's servant; for as to the other, he would not stir out of his master's room.

After we had asked a thousand questions, the fellow told us, the ladies were surrounded by five or six men in the lane that leads to Meanwell's farm; and that the gentlemen fearing some accident, made full speed to the place, and found the ladies coachman disputing with one of the rogues, who wanted to pull him off his box, that he might take his place; which so enraged my master and Cleanthes, that they flew upon them more like lions than men. After some time, observing when the coachman was free and determined to drive home, they charged us, who had two of the villains, to let them go, and upon pain of their eternal displeasure, not to leave the chariot till it got safe to Wealthy-place. We durst not disobey them; though we thought it a cruel command. But before we had gone far, I saw Cleanthes had got the rascal under him, who had given him that cut on the head; nor was my master less successful. The rest, seeing their chiefs vanquished, ran away like cowards.

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This is all I know, but that Semanthe gave a loud shriek, and swooned away ; but the other lady having brought her to herself, we rode up and assured them our master had conquered, and had them so intirely in their power, that we saw them pull off the masques they wore to disguise their designs.

Upon this the ladies would fain have persuaded the coachman to drive back ; but no prayers nor bribes could prevail with him. All this time Lucy looked so depressed, that I told her I believed she wished herself in Dobs's hut. No, replied she, I hope to be of some small service to Lucinda in this time of affliction. The other pressed her hand, but could not speak. Harriot and Truman looked shocked ; and the giddy Fanny and her brother were struck mute ; till the surgeon told us Cleanthes, though he was much more dangerously wounded than Sprightly, yet he did not fear his recovery, if no fever ensued.

This was some small relief, though it was accompanied with numberless fears. We could not guess from whence this blow came. I will venture my life, cried Rustick, Tymon is at the bottom of this horrid affair. His malice is worked up

to the highest pitch, and if he has heard of Letty's marriage, his dark detestable soul has formed this project to get Semanthe into his power, that he may sacrifice her to that lump of fear and folly lord Simple: and yet I never heard he was returned.

In vain I endeavoured to calm the grief of Lucinda: she remained inconsolable. Lucy seeing our distress, promised not to leave her till she saw her in a happier situation. I determined to watch with Cleanthes that night, and Truman with Sprightly. After a very melancholy evening, I retired to my post, and found him very restless and uneasy. Sometimes he sighed and complained bitterly of his hard fate, that denied him the power to protect the fair he loved. I endeavoured by every gentle method I could invent, to sooth the pain he suffered, by assuring him they had got safe home. That is no sanctuary for those helpless innocents, as you will confess when I tell you.

My dear Cleanthes, replied I, if you persist in talking, I must leave you; I conjure you, for Semanthe's sake, calm the tempest in your soul; let it not be said a man of your sense and judgment could

could not moderate his anger. 'Tis impossible, cried he; I cannot bear the disappointment; to have her torn from my sight in the very moment that expectation had raised my wishes to their highest pitch, is more than any philosopher of my age could bear. Love and death are equally irresistible: no reasons are of force to repel the first, and no physic can withstand the last.

Finding I could not silence him, I left him; but he never closed his eyes till towards morning. When he waked, I had the pleasure of finding him rather more composed. I then told him the message from the ladies. He shewed a sort of faint joy, mixed with rage and indignation; and then then with a scornful smile, asked me if I thought the tender lambs could be in safety while they remained within the purlues of the ravenous wolf? No, no; you might as well persuade me the harmless bird is safe if once you see her in the unpitying vulture's gripe: in this situation is the lost, the dear Semanthe!

While you survive, she cannot want a protector: forbear to answer me; your returning health depends upon yourself. Does she not beg you to preserve a life,

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on which her own depends? I will now leave you to the care of Trusty, not for want of rest, but as the only means to preserve you. Upon this I threw myself upon my bed, revolving in my mind the many misfortunes that seemed to threaten all the happiness of my future days; for if Alvaro and my mother were cast away, I should think myself the cause of their death. I saw nothing but gloomy prospects before me: Cleanthes I thought very ill; Lucinda was wretched; and sir Charles would never consent to remove the evils that oppressed us: you may be sure a mind thus agitated, could take no rest.

C H A P. XXVI.

HEARING Sprightly's door open, I went to Truman, who I found had much more reason to complain of his patient than I had ; for he told me, in the greatest disorder of mind, Sprightly begged he would indulge him with a patient hearing of that day's adventure, or he believed he should go mad. I was forced to consent : when he told me that villain, Tymon, had been informed, that by the contrivance of Cleanthes and Rustick, the doctor had broke off the match with Semanthe, and was now making his addresses to Letty. That to prevent so great a scandal to the family, he had returned, incog. on purpose to counter-plot his enemies : which he hoped he should do, by setting spies over her that would take care to keep her from committing an action so unbecoming her quality. Common justice forced him to undeceive sir Charles, who gave his consent that he should carry off Semanthe this morning, which would have excused him from breaking an oath they had drawn him into. And now, gentlemen,

men, said the rascal, where is the harm of all this? Has not a father an undoubted right to dispose of his child as he pleases? Had it not been for me, Cleanthes would certainly have shot him thro' the head, though he looked as if he was going to expire with the loss of blood.

The fellow, who lay trembling at my feet, had been a sea-surgeon; I suffered him to rise and tie up his wounds as well as ours; when Cleanthes cried out, Thou fiend in human shape! how darest thou justify thy wicked purposes? Was the angelic form of Semanthe to be profaned by so stupid a wretch as Simple, whom thou knowest she hated and despised? As to the passions of women, replied the monster, I never think them lasting; they are governed by whims and fancies; these are the idols they adore. The first would have been gratified by a large estate; and the latter of course could not have failed to convince her a young lady of quality had an undoubted right to indulge herself in every pleasure she thought fit to pursue. Again I interposed, to save him from the keen resentment of Cleanthes. Soon after the wretch fell down, and I really feared he was dead. We grew extremely faint; and

and with much difficulty reached Meanwell's, who we sent to fetch him in his cart.

He no sooner arrived, than he was laid upon a bed, where he recovered his senses; and we left him in a sulken silence. By this time observing his spirits failed him, I begged him to compose his ruffled thoughts, as we should have time enough to discant on the actions of these bad men hereafter. I will, answered he; but Isabella presents herself before my eyes, adorned with all the charms of grief for the danger she saw me exposed to. I made no reply, but kept out of his sight.

I now left him asleep, to enquire after Cleanthes. When I had finished the short history of what I knew, he asked what opinion I had of mankind, when one of sir Charles's age could prevaricate with heaven, and basely join with a perfidious wretch to ruin a young creature, who ought to have been his peculiar care? To dive into the enormous crimes of mortals, answered I, is an unpleasing task; but still I am not for placing their depravity of manners to great nature's fault. No: 'tis swerving from her rules that leads them into the paths of vice;

'tis then we lay aside all thought and reflections. Consulting nothing but our passions, we give way to the demon of revenge with an insolent pride. Nursed up in luxury, and pampered by voluptuousness, we cease to be rational creatures. But see my Lucinda and the ladies appear like the children of sorrow.

In vain we endeavoured to dispel their fears, by assuring them the gentlemen were as well as could be expected. When Truman had told them what he had heard from Sprightly, they were amazed to find resentment could conquer a love, that the great author of this world had planted in the dumb creation. Rustick, enraged to the last degree, started up, and swore he could not bear to hear these poor girls were so unhappy ; therefore, let the consequence be what it would, he was determined to give them the satisfaction of knowing their lovers were not in the danger they apprehended. His mother and Harriot seemed frightened, for fear the warmth of his temper should draw him into some scrape : we all joined to dissuade him from so rash an action ; but we could not prevail, till Clitander appeared, and impatiently begged to know what hopes they had of Cleanthes and Sprightly ?

Sprightly? When we had told him the opinion of the surgeon, he was overjoyed, as it was better news than he expected: for he said rumour had employed a hundred tongues to describe the danger of Cleanthes and his friend, in the most shocking manner; but that now as he hoped he should not add to their grief, he would venture to give them a note from Semanthe, wrote in the bitterest agonies of her soul; but that love could conquer every difficulty; for by his assistance, she had eluded a spy set over her, who seemed to have obtained the eyes of Argus, on purpose to torment her. And now, Lucinda, continued he, as I have great reason to suspect that sir Charles and that lily-livered rascal Tymon, were the contrivers of this detestable plot, I beg you will let me into all you know of this unhappy accident.

I find there is the devil to pay at lord Simple's; Tymon was fetched home last night; and then finding Letty was married to the doctor, he had them both turned out of doors. My lord is terrified almost to death. Various are the conjectures that are made on this occasion: they agree but in two things; one is the condemnation of Tymon, and the other is

is real concern for the safety of Cleanthes
and Sprightly.

When Truman, by the desire of Lucinda, had given him an account of what passed between Sprightly and him, she gave Clitander the letter, begging he would read it, that he might be convinced sir Charles and Tymon were equally guilty.

Semanthe to Lucinda.

THINK what we suffered when we were forced to leave your brother and Sprightly wounded, amidst a set of ruffians! Indeed, my Lucinda, I may justly say, my soul then left its mansion, and all that animated this wretched frame was but the spirit of transcending woe! Alas! how lost a thing am I! When will my sorrows end? Even my dear Bell's courage fails her; with me she sits, and dreads the loitering moments as they pass. Terrified at each noise we hear, lest some ill-boding messenger should bring the fatal tidings that those great and generous men were now no more. Forbid it heaven! for though I am inured to the disappointments of this life, I have not philosophy enough to sup-

support the thought. I see no prospect but despair ; and yet I am compelled to tread the path that leads to it. God knows what will be our fate. There was a man with my father last night so muffled up in a cloak, that the servants could by no means guess who he was : but no doubt the affair yesterday was the result of that wretch's advice. Give me but a line to tell me they will live, and I will bless you with my latest breath. My father's behaviour distracts me ! He received us with a coldness that amazed me ! he has lost the tenderness of a parent. The Rusticks will feel our woes ; but let them fly this house, for fear of something too terrible to be named by the unhappy

SEMANTHE.

As soon as he had read the epistle, he with great vehemence cried out, A contemptible scoundrel, did he think to obtain a lady of Semanthe's way of judging by such a base, ignoble manner of treating her ? Inhuman sir Charles, added he, I will encrease the cares that oppres his guilty soul. I am to call on him in my way home ; but believe me, I will not appease his fears ; no, if possible, I will

will heighten the remorse he must feel, while he thinks the gentlemen in danger. He knows all worthy men will resent any injury committed against persons of their distinguished honour and merit. By my soul, cried Rustick, I will join with you in any revenge you can invent, to plague either him or Tymon. I believe, replied the other, you have raised Tymon's resentment to the highest pitch, by enabling the doctor to carry off Letty; but as the ladies of Wealthy-place are upon the rack at this time, I will go immediately and undeceive them. The hopes you have of their recovery will be the best news I can carry. Depend upon it, Rustick, I will fright your uncle, if possible, as much as you did lord Simple, when you broke his windows. Very well resolved, said Lucinda; but pray tell my dear Semanthe and her fair cousin, that I would have wrote, had I not been convinced such an historian as Clitander will express my meaning better than I could myself.

Company coming in, he departed; and indeed the house was like a fair, by all the neighbouring gentlemen coming to enquire after Cleanthes. They all expressed great indignation at Tymon's
be-

behaviour to Semanthe ; especially as he knew that lady's affections were already engaged to Cleanthes.

While we were thus surrounded with a great variety of visitors, our lovers were commonly strolling in the park ; and Lucy, who avoided all strangers, divided her time in soothing the complaints of her two patients, as she called them ; and indeed her behaviour was so meritorious, that the compassion we first felt for her, was now turned into the tenderest esteem and friendship.

C H A P. XXVII.

AS I was one morning sitting in a pensive humour, I saw Lovemore at some distance. I went to meet him ; when he said, I have but this instant heard of the danger of Cleanthes, that very Cleanthes who I loved as my son, and regarded as my friend. Struck with the deepest sorrow I arrived ; but there is something in your face that gives me room to hope. With joy equal to your own I will shew you, that much lov'd man has escaped all the cruel designs of his enemies.

I then led him to Cleanthes, where we found Mrs. Rustick and Lucinda entertaining him with Clitander's behaviour, and Semanthe's letter. While he was reading the tender lines of that charming maid, Lovemore embraced him, and said, Contrary to my own maxims, I have been tormenting myself with the thoughts of a separation that overcame all my resolutions ; but heaven be praised, I once more see you triumph over the evil designs of wicked men.

How

How pleasing are the sorrows of a virtuous friend! Observe Mrs. Rustick and Lucinda have caught the soft infection. My soul overflows with gratitude for all the pains you have taken to lead my infant steps into the pleasing paths of honour and justice. But read Semanthe's lines, and then I believe you will confess my case is desperate.

When he had finished the epistle, he said, What a picture is here of a heart ready to break with anguish and despair! Then addressing himself to Mrs. Rustick, he told her, if her brother had half the sensibility that adorned her mind, he would with joy have given his lovely daughter to the deserving Cleanthes. Sir, replied that lady, I should have lamented an alliance that had made so good a man refuse me his esteem; but Cleanthes has the art of setting his friends in so fair a light, that you forget the indignities my brother offered to your sacred order. As to me and mine, his usage has been so cruel, that I assure you it requires some Christian fortitude to forgive him. Madam, answered he, I am no stranger to your character, nor to the share you have taken in the misfortunes of this family.

Before she could answer him, Lucy, with a smile, told them, she plainly saw her patient had exhausted his spirits too much; therefore she begged they would leave him, and go to Sprightly, who wanted a little advice to make him submit to rules. So fair a nurse, said Lovemore, must be obeyed; but I hope you will give me leave to see him before I go. O yes, Sir, replied she; but I know they have so many long histories to tell you, that I fear they will be too much for Cleanthes. You will employ a great deal of our time, said Lucinda. Your partiality to me, returned the other, will make you relate my story in such terms, that I know that good man will pity me. I am sorry you are intitled to it; but upon my word you have made me impatient to be let into your story, that I may admire your mind as much as I do your person. Nay don't blish at the commendations of an old man.

We found Sprightly impatient of restraint, talking of going to Wealthy-place, and forcing Sir Charles to let him see Isabella; but Lovemore, who had the art of moderating the unruly passions of youth, brought him to hear reason. He confessed his error, and promised to be
more

more composed for the future; so that we might safely leave him to acquaint Lovemore with all that had happened to our society since he left us. Lucinda perceiving I was out of spirits, undertook to inform him of Rustick's adventure with Simple, the doctor's marriage with Letty, Tymon's barbarous design to run away with Semanthe, the danger of Cleanthes and Sprightly; and then closed her narration with the history of Lucy, her settlement at the grove, and her uncommon behaviour in this time of distress.

The lovers joining us, we introduced them to Lovemore, who embraced them, and told Rustick he admired his contrivance in setting Semanthe free from lord Simple's addresses. I have a constant desire to serve those I love; but I sometimes mar my designs by an impetuosity in my temper that makes me liable to censure.

This modest answer pleased Lovemore so greatly, that taking his hand, he told him, perhaps that warmth of temper he complained of, might be the foundation of that honest sincerity so amiable to all that were in the circle of his acquaintance. I am a plain man myself; flattery
and nob
P 2 is

is not in my power ; where-ever I meet with social virtues, I do not mind foibles. The human mind cannot be perfect : this every body that looks into his own breast will confess. But what must they suffer, who upon a strict examination, find ingratitude, cruelty and revenge lie lurking in their souls ? O ! my friends, were not these vices encouraged by false glosses, we should not now lament the danger Cleanthes and Sprightly have been in. Nor is our fears yet removed ; who knows what new persecutions may be raised against Semanthe ? But, Lucinda, continued he, I long to be better acquainted with this fair maid of the grove : for I think a young creature that bears up the dignity of her birth in the midst of adversity, is more to be admired than all the heroes of Greece and Rome, who could not, after the triumphs they obtained, conquer themselves.

Just then we were summoned to dinner ; where Lucy, like the blooming Hebe, was ready to receive us. She was vastly pleased with the behaviour of Lovemore ; every body grew cheerful but myself ; each day increased my fears. Lovemore told me he was sorry to see me so altered. I informed him of my doubts

doubts for the danger my mother and Alvaro might be in ; adding, 'tis impossible to banish the dark and gloomy ideas that haunt me continually.

How industrious are we short-sighted mortals in wasting the precious time we might enjoy, in racking cares and fears, that may vanish in a moment ! Perhaps the lucky hour is approaching, when you will again embrace them. How will you then blame yourself for wounding the tender heart of Lucinda ! Do you not see her drooping spirits sink under that gloom, that robs her of your company ; which, joined to her brother's misfortunes, is too much for her to bear. If it was not for Lucy, what would become of her ? You never spoke all dinner time : I saw she was miserable, tho' out of prudence, she does not upbraid you. I know the recovery of Cleanthes gives you infinite satisfaction. Lucinda you will allow to be the only person that can make you happy ; but we men are too apt to let the present thought engross our whole attention, not considering what is due to those we love. Your advice has raised me out of my lethargy ; self-condemned I stand before you. A thousand things recur to convince

vince me, my dear Lucinda has too much reason to complain of my behaviour ; but I know the lovely maid is soft and gentle as forgiving mercy. But now let us go to Cleanthes.

We found him very composed, tho' there was a melancholy spread over every feature of his face. He begged Lovemore would stay with him that evening, as he never was more intitled to his advice than at present. Your house is so full of company, said Lovemore, that I shall be an interruption to the young people. No, cried Cleanthes, when you are tired, Lucy and I have agreed you shall be her guest at the grove ; where she promises herself great pleasure in your conversation. She is indeed a very extraordinary young creature, who has gone thro' very heavy misfortunes, without a friend to support her. How then must I be condemned, indulged with every thing an affluent fortune can bestow ? and yet I find Semanthe so essential to my happiness, that excepting the conversation of those I love, what I ought to enjoy, proves useless to me.

Lovemore endeavoured to convince him Lucy's trials were much harder to struggle through than his ; and yet she ap-

appeared cheerful, though all her youthful hopes were blasted by poverty, that meagre phantom, who pursued her even to her cottage. I know you felt a secret joy in being able to protect her under your hospitable roof, where she is secure from the insulting world. Pray send for her; perhaps her advice may be of service both to you and Lorenzo; for each of you want to travel through smooth roads, where no thorns nor frightful precipices should obstruct your journey to the island of felicities. But don't deceive yourselves; depend upon it that dear delightful place is no where to be found but in the lover's brain. Were we not used to the various turns of the goddess Fortune, I should not blame you; for I know resignation is a hard duty to practise, till time and disappointments have convinced you every thing in the world is subject to mutability. Sir Charles may die, or he may alter his mind; and Lorenzo may see his mother and Alvaro safely landed upon our coast. But here comes Lucinda and the pretty nymph of the grove. Then addressing himself to the ladies, he told them he found his pupils were not inclined to follow his old-fashioned maxims: therefore

fore to you, Lucinda, I resign the care of Lorenzo, and to you, Lucy, I deliver up Cleanthes. Then you think me incorrigible, returned Cleanthes; but pray, Lucy, tell me what is become of Sprightly? Why, really, Sir, replied she, he has been under dreadful apprehensions, lest some potent prince of the fairies should order his golden chariot, inlaid with ivory, and drawn by fiery dragons, to descend upon this earth, on purpose to carry Isabella to his magnificent palace, where she would meet with every thing that could charm the eye and captivate the senses. In vain I assured him, should such a misfortune happen, his case would not be so desperate as he imagined; for by my skill in those airy mansions, I knew some mighty princess, jealous of a mortal beauty's charms, and unable to bear a rival, in a fit of despair she would leave her celestial abode to bring him an enchanted sword that would in an instant destroy all the lions and tigers placed as a guard about her person. But alcas! added I, you must suffer a great many hardships, without you can engage patience to be your guide; if you can gain that heavenly maid, I do not doubt but you will

will break through all obstacles, and bring off the lady in triumph to this very castle ; where I will be ready to relate your adventures to ages yet unborn.

He did not approve of the conductor I had chose for him ; so I left him to Mrs. Rustick's management.

You could not have allotted my friend a better companion, cried Cleanthes ; but indeed, Lucy, I am a little jealous. Why did you not recommend her to me ? Because I knew Mr. Lovemore's precepts had formed your mind superior to all indiscreet, rash actions. That is a great compliment to me, said Lovemore ; but really, Madam, I have only called forth the hidden seeds of in-bred worth. Very true, replied Lucy ; but if you please to remember,

Great Julius on the mountains bred
A flock perhaps, or herd had fed ;
He that the world subdued, had been
But the best wrestler on the green.

I freely confess I am obliged to Mr. Lovemore for any good qualities I possess, and at the same time I acquit him of my faults, for they are all my own. Had I been

been bred up on a mountain, I should never have seen Semanthe; and then I might have enjoyed my soul in peace. You cannot be sure of that, said Lucy; some little wandering Shepherdess might have robbed you of your freedom. The god of love led Ononia to enslave the youthful Paris, while he fed his flocks upon mount Ida, before he saw the charming Spartan queen.

Mr. Rustick introduced Sprightly, telling us he was come to demand justice against the fairy of the grove, for giving him so contemptible a guide as patience. 'Tis very true, cried Sprightly, I will no longer be mewed up like a partridge, while that mischievous fairy is playing me off on purpose to shew her wit at my expence. But now I am determinaed to try her power; for if she does not provide me one of her winged monsters to carry me back to my chamber, I will not stir from this place till bed-time. Nobly resolved; but take notice, if you catch cold, positively I won't nurse you; no, no, I will leave you to sing penitential psalms, when your muse is in the fullens, and will not inspire you with one line in praise of Isabella's beauty; whereas if you would have entertained
the

the friend I recommended, your health would have been restored; and then, as a reward for your prudence, the divine sisters might have visited you; but you must rashly attempt to storm the sacred mount, though you have not strength to draw the bow, or toss the mighty javelin. Fye, fye, sir Knight, as I am an honest fairy'tis wrong, extremely wrong. We all laughed at this pleasant conceit of Lucy's.

Lucinda triumphed in the victory she had obtained over Sprightly, declaring she thought they were all much obliged to me for introducing this charming fairy to inhabit the grove. I shall always remember, to that gentleman I owe my present happy situation.

When I look back on the miserable prospect of my affairs, I could almost fancy myself in a trance, and that my wild imagination has hurried me into some enchanted castle, where I enjoy all I can desire; but then I am so afraid of waking out of this pleasing dream, by finding myself in Dobs's farm, with all his brats and pigs crying and grunting round me. 'Tis true, in that deplorable place I had brought my mind to correspond with my fortune; but as I find youth

youth and spirits urge me on to equal myself to those I converse with, I must retire to the grove, and fly to solitude; for I find I am off my guard. Prosperity has almost turned my brain; therefore I beg your pardon, Mr. Sprightly, if, as I fear, I have said more than I ought. My pretty fairy, cried Sprightly, I cannot bear to hear you sing penitential psalms upon my account; I would not have you lose your life and spirits upon any consideration. I swear, Cleanthes, I envy you the joy it must give you to see this depressed and tender maid under your protection. Had she not been depressed by the hardships she has suffered from the faults of others, replied Cleanthes, she would not have checked herself for being innocently gay; but if you have the least desire to oblige me, forget I have a fortune superior to your own. ResUME the native freedom of your will; or all the graceful ease I first observed in you must give way to a formal reserve, and a cold respect; two of the most detestable things in nature, from those we wish to make our friends. Be in no pain; for I dare promise, while any of this company lives,

you

you will be supported according to your birth and merit.

Lucy, overcome by the generosity of Cleanthes, stood silent; when luckily for her, the lovers came in to return Cleanthes and Lucinda thanks for all their favours.

After they had expressed their joy at seeing them so well recovered, honest Rustick declared they should not think themselves lawfully married, without Lovemore would consent to put on their chains. He told them they did him great honour; they might command him when and where they pleased. Rustick said they could not set the day till the gentlemen could grace their nuptials; nor will we excuse Lucy, for my Harriot depends upon her for one of her bride-maids. His mother told her, she should take it ill if she refused them that favour. And I, cried Fanny, shall be monstrous angry; for I love her dearly. Ladies, replied Lucy, I am ashamed to hear you ask for any thing in my power to grant. But I see Lucinda thinks 'tis time to leave the gentlemen. You are in the right, said Mrs. Rustick. Come, children, let us go, lest we tire those we love.

Lucy

Lucy would fain have retired to the grove with Lovemore; but it was impossible; they all protested they would not part with them.

I took every opportunity to let Lovemore see his advice was not thrown away upon me. My spirits were raised; Lucinda gay; and every body looked cheerful. Rustick protested he would see the doctor and his foolish wife the next morning; as he longed to know what was become of my lord and Tymon. If I hear any news of the ladies of Wealthy-place, I will let you know it; but what can be expected from a man that forbid Lucy his house? It was a brutish action, returned Lovemore; and yet I will not despair of his amendment: but 'tis late. Come, Lucy, let you and I retire to the grove.

This broke up the company, and we separated; and as the moon shone delightfully, Lucinda and I attended them home; where Lucy behaved in so obliging a manner, that Lovemore was charmed with her easy politeness. We staid a little while with them, and in our return, I may say we tasted all the pleasures that madam Cynthia could bestow on virtuous lovers. In this walk
I con-

AND SEMANTHE. 327

I convinced her, the treasure of the world
could not be put in competition with her
love. But when we parted, my pensive
humour returned ; till reason quitted my
fears, and I resigned myself to rest.

END OF VOL. I.